

250

250

questions

answers

about the

GERMAN

DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC

HX

632

A1

W9

NO. 1673

Z

MAIN

250 QUESTIONS

250 ANSWERS

about the German Democratic Republic

First English edition, based on the fourth revised and expanded
German Edition

Published by: Verlag Die Wirtschaft, Französische Straße 53—55
Berlin W 8, Germany. Published 1955. Licence No. 122.

Druckgenehmigungs-Nr. 195/72/55

All rights reserved by The Committee for German Unity. Cover design
and typography: Wirtschaftsgraphik. Printed in Germany by I/16/01

MV Potsdam A 424

250 QUESTIONS

250 ANSWERS


ABOUT THE

GERMAN

DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLIC

COMMITTEE FOR GERMAN UNITY



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
University of Alberta Libraries

Publisher's Preface

The English language edition of "250 Questions — 250 Answers about the German Democratic Republic" is a revised version of the 4th German edition of this book. Statistics and other particulars have been revised and brought up to the date of going to press. The publishers hope that this English edition will help to spread knowledge of the German Democratic Republic amongst English-speaking readers, and will bring understanding for the all-German question, the reunification of Germany.

FROM THE PREFACE TO THE FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD GERMAN EDITION

The speedy reunification of Germany is something desired by every German. It can, however, only be attained by reaching an understanding between the Germans in East and West. This understanding has been made more difficult by the mass of false information, lies and slanders spread by part of the press in West Germany and West Berlin about economic, political and cultural conditions in East Germany.

Who profits from these lies, such as the lies about alleged "starvation in the East Zone"? Such lies are of advantage only to those who profit from the partitioning of our homeland, those who are interested in maintaining their power and carrying out conquests, those who sow dissension in order to play off the East and the West against each other. Our people do not want dissension nor civil war. Our people need understanding and peace.

For understanding it is necessary to know the real facts about the situation. For this reason the publishers of this book have gathered together the questions most often asked by West Germans about life in the German Democratic Republic, and have answered these questions as exactly and as fully as possible.

All the answers are based upon the laws and regulations, the statistics and the facts of the daily life of citizens of the German Democratic Republic. All the persons, the factories and the institutions named actually exist and every reader can convince himself by correspondence of the truth of the answers given.

Berlin, January 1954

Committee for German Unity

FROM THE PREFACE TO THE FOURTH GERMAN EDITION

Since the publication of the first edition of this book only six months have passed. The fact that in this short period a fourth edition has become necessary shows the great popularity of this reference work in both parts of Germany.

The book has been particularly well received by West German readers, who had not yet had the opportunity to visit our Republic themselves and whose ideas about the Republic were often coloured by the lies and misinformation spread for years through press and radio by those opposed to a peaceful reunification of Germany. In this way this book has been able to play its part in bringing about understanding between the Germans.

The fourth edition has been expanded and revised. The main reason for the revision was the fact that in the intervening period the German Democratic Republic has made further great progress in the economic, political and cultural field. All details given in the fourth edition accord with the latest achievements.

In the six months since the first edition appeared great progress has been made in all fields of social life in the German Democratic Republic and these improvements bear witness to the effectiveness of the new course followed by our Government and the speed of our peaceful reconstruction.

Special thanks must be given to the numerous readers in East and West who have given valuable hints, criticisms and suggestions for the revision of the book. We shall be glad in future to receive questions and suggestions from our readers, and to take them into consideration as far as is possible.

Berlin, July 1954

Committee for German Unity

The German Democratic Republic

consists of the Eastern part of Germany. It is made up of 14 counties: Potsdam, Frankfurt/Oder, Cottbus (the province of Brandenburg); Neu-Brandenburg, Rostock, Schwerin (the province of Mecklenburg); Magdeburg, Halle (the province of Sachsen-Anhalt); Erfurt, Suhl, Gera (the province of Thuringia); Leipzig, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Dresden (the province of Saxony).

The German Democratic Republic has an area of 107,670 square kilometres. Its population (1946) was 17,200,000. The seat of Government of the German Democratic Republic is in the Democratic Sector of Berlin.

The German Democratic Republic was founded on October 7th 1949 on the territory of the former Soviet Occupation Zone as the basis for a united, peace-loving and independent Germany. The President of the German Democratic Republic is Wilhelm Pieck and the Prime Minister is Otto Grotewohl.

The State in the German Democratic Republic

1. How and why was the German Democratic Republic formed?

The signatories to the Potsdam Agreement guaranteed the establishment of the economic and political unity of Germany. Facts have shown, however, that from the very start the Government of the United States aimed at a partitioning of Germany.

In 1947 there was an economic union between the American and British zones of occupation, followed in 1948 by a separate currency reform in the three Western zones. The culmination of this development came on September 20th 1949, when the Western Powers completed the partitioning of Germany by constituting the West German separatist government. A situation was thus created which called for immediate measures on the part of the democratic parties and mass organisations. As a result the Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic was established on October 7th 1949 and the Government was unanimously confirmed by the population in the elections held on October 15th 1950.

The political aims of the government of the German Democratic Republic are expressed in the Manifesto issued by the German People's Council on October 7th 1949 upon the formation of the German Democratic Republic: "The constitutionally formed Provisional German Government will devote its efforts to the fight for peace and the unity and sovereignty of Germany. It will be an important bulwark in the fight for the realisation of the programme of the National Front of Democratic Germany.

2. Why is the German Democratic Republic described as a workers' and peasants' state?

The German Democratic Republic is called a workers' and peasants' state since the working class, in alliance with the working peasants, have the power.

The working class, which creates great material values, is numerically the strongest class in the German Democratic Republic. Of the 6.1 million wage and salary earners more than 4.5 million are workers, and they form together with the

members of their families more than half the total population of the Republic. More than one million of the workers are employed in the 424 largest nationally owned factories employing more than a thousand workers.

Thus the workers play an extremely important part in the life of the German Democratic Republic and this is expressed in the leadership of the state too. In West Germany on the other hand the state power is to-day in the hands of the big capitalists and landowners, just as it was in the past.

This is shown by the following facts:

The majority of the ministers in the Government of the German Democratic Republic come from the working class and other working sections of the population. In the West German Government, on the other hand, thirteen of the eighteen Ministers are big capitalists, bankers and landowners, and not one is a worker or peasant. Six of the Ministers in West Germany were formerly leading nazi functionaries, or collaborated closely with the Hitlerites.

In the People's Chamber, the Parliament of the German Democratic Republic, 230 of the deputies are from the working class, 37 are peasants, 32 are craftsmen and 40 are intellectuals. In the West German Federal Parliament, on the other hand, incomplete statistics show 85 factory owners and big merchants, 51 big landowners, 85 leading employees of big business concerns and 138 members of the so called free professions who, in a capitalist society, mostly serve the capitalists. Only 3 per cent of the members — 15 deputies — are of working class origin and most of these are right wing trade union leaders who work closely together with big business.

In the German Democratic Republic the various other elected bodies in the counties, districts, towns and villages also show the leading role of the working class; 67 per cent of the members of these bodies come from the working class, 8.2 per cent are peasants and 6.9 per cent are craftsmen.

Thus it may be clearly seen that the working class in alliance with the other working sections of the population — peasants, craftsmen and intellectuals — control the state power. For the first time in the history of Germany a real people's state has been created, guaranteed by the fact that the workers and the peasants are the leading forces in the state. An administration has been built which from the very beginning guaranteed the interests of the working people and a democratic development in all fields of political, economic and cultural life.

3. What is the supreme authority in the German Democratic Republic?

The People's Chamber, the elected body is the supreme authority, the real central state organ. This demonstrates the fact that a real popular state exists in the German Democratic Republic. There is no body which possesses powers greater than those of the People's Chamber anywhere in the state.

The People's Chamber carries out the following duties:

- a) it lays down the principles of Government policy and the carrying out of these principles;
- b) confirms and supervises the Government and can recall it;
- c) lays down the principles to be followed by the administration and supervises the entire activity of the state machinery;
- d) performs legislative duties insofar as a plebiscite is not held;
- e) confirms the state budget, the economic plan, loans or state credits, and ratifies state treaties;
- f) issues amnesties;
- g) elects together with the Laenderkammer (Upper House of Parliament), the President of the Republic and can recall him with a two-thirds majority of both Houses;
- h) elects the members of the supreme court and the supreme legal authorities of the Republic and can recall them.

The People's Chamber can only be dissolved before the end of its four-year term by its own decision or as the result of a plebiscite.

The representative bodies in the counties, districts and Towns of the German Democratic Republic are bound by the decisions of the People's Chamber.

4. How does the People's Chamber carry out its tasks?

The People's Chamber is the supreme state body of the German Democratic Republic. The constitutionally defined rights and tasks outlined above help the People's Chamber to shape the social relations, to care for the material well being of the citizens and to ensure citizens their democratic rights. The People's Chamber works for the peaceful reunification of Germany and the conclusion of a peace treaty. In the field of foreign policy it works for peace and friendship with all nations and for the prevention of a new act of aggression.

In the field of home policy the People's Chamber has passed important legislation. Among the most important of these

are the Labour Law which ensures the workers the right of full codetermination, the proper treatment of working strength and the continual improvement of the material and cultural position of the workers and office employees; the Law on the Participation of Young People in the Construction of the German Democratic Republic and Help for Young People in Schools and at Work, Sport and Recreation; the Law on the Protection of Mothers and Children and the Rights of Women, which guarantees full equality for women in all fields of social life.

The importance and the effect of these Laws are described more fully in other sections of this book.

As part of its efforts to maintain peace, consolidate friendship with all nations and prevent a new act of aggression, the People's Chamber passed on December 15th 1950, the Law for the Protection of Peace. This law makes war propaganda and all propaganda for national or racial hatred into punishable offences as crimes against humanity.

In their struggle for the unity of Germany, the People's Chamber and the Government of the German Democratic Republic have constantly worked for an understanding between East and West Germany. Up until November 1954 the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic had passed a total of 54 different resolutions and declarations upon this question which is so vital for the German nation. A delegation was also sent to visit the West German Federal Parliament in an attempt to remove all obstacles to a joint discussion on the peaceful solution of the German question.

All these resolutions and declarations, including the three outlined in greater detail below, where either not replied to at all or were rejected. On September 15th 1951 the People's Chamber, acting on a Government proposal, sent an "Appeal to All Germans and all German Democratic Parties and Organisations" to the West German Parliament, proposing all-German discussions on the holding of all-German free elections to a National Assembly on the speeding-up of the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany. Laying this resolution before the People's Chamber, Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, appealed to the members of the West German Parliament in these words: "If you accept our proposal, the unity of Germany on a democratic and peaceful basis will not be propanganda, but will become reality tomorrow."

In March 1952, the Government of the Soviet Union addressed to the three Western Powers a note on the question of preparing a peace treaty with Germany. On March 14th 1952,

the People's Chamber once again devoted its attention to the vital question confronting the German people and the question of securing the peace of Europe. Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, in his Government declaration, stated that it was impossible to conclude a peace treaty with Germany without having restored German Unity. The People's Chamber addressed itself once more to the West German Parliament in a resolution declaring that in view of the declaration of the Government of the USSR it was time for the West German Parliament to call for the speedy conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the proposals of the Soviet Union.

On July 30th, 1953, the People's Chamber appealed once more to the German people, expressing the opinion that the calling of all-German discussions must be regarded as a precondition for the success of a Four Power Conference on the German question. The People's Chamber pointed out that the proposals for the reunification of Germany handed over personally to the Chairman of the West German Parliament in Bonn in autumn 1952 had not been answered.

The People's Chamber proposed that by August 1953 at the latest, an all-German meeting should be called to discuss the question of inner-German trade, traffic, the issuing of interzonal passes, and the preparation and holding of free all-German elections.

This declaration made it plain that these points should not be regarded as in any way conditions for such a meeting. The People's Chamber declared its readiness to discuss all proposals made by both sides without previous agreement on an Agenda.

From all these proposals it can be seen clearly that the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic:

1. was always in favour of negotiations, is in favour of negotiations, and always will be in favour of negotiations;
2. regards an understanding between the Germans themselves as both necessary and possible;
3. does not and will not impose any prior conditions upon discussions between the two parts of Germany;
4. is ready at any time, and at the shortest notice, to negotiate upon all questions which could serve to bring closer together the two states in Germany;
5. is ready at any time, to negotiate also upon problems, which
 - a) have not been mentioned in the proposals of the People's Chamber or the Government of the German Democratic Republic,

- b) which are proposed by West Germany or upon which particular information is desired;
- c) regards all its proposals as contributions toward agreed all-German decisions.

5. Why does the People's Chamber reach its decisions unanimously?

Since the German Democratic Republic is a workers' and peasants' state in which there are no big capitalists, big landowners and bankers, there are no economic or political foundations for the representation of interests opposed to the construction plans of the overwhelming majority of the people. For this reason there are no mutually hostile parties with conflicting ideas about the basic policy of our government.

The great mutual interests of all sections of the population are the starting point for all decisions taken by the People's Chamber in the economic, political and cultural fields. The political parties and the most important mass organisations, which represent the particular interests of the various sections of the population, have joined together in the "Block of Anti-Fascist Democratic Parties and Mass Organisations" on the basis of their common struggle for peace, national unity and democracy.

All decisive problems of internal and external policy, which shall be expressed as Government policy or in the form of laws, are discussed at meetings of this block until unanimity is reached on the principles of such laws.

The draft law is then worked out by the Government, in which all fractions of the People's Chamber are represented, and is then presented to the People's Chamber for its decision. In the first reading of such a bill the various fractions generally propose various amendments, based in particular on suggestions received from the population.

The draft is then referred to the relevant Parliamentary Committee for final drafting. These committees include the Budget Committee, Economic Committee, Committee for Labour and Health, Agricultural Committee, Cultural Committee etc. The various fractions are represented in these committees proportional to their representation in the People's Chamber. Committee sessions are generally marked by lively discussions, which continue until the point under discussion is finally clarified. For this reason the second reading of the bill generally results in unanimous adoption by all deputies of the People's Chamber. The representatives of the various frac-

tions in their speeches emphasize the importance of the new law for the sections of the population which they represent or make suggestions for the way in which the law should be put into effect, suggestions which are heeded by the government and the population.

6. How is the People's Chamber elected?

The deputies of the People's Chamber are representatives of the German people, elected by general, equal, direct and secret ballot on the principle of proportional representation, for a period of four years.

The first People's Chamber was elected in the general democratic elections held in October 15th 1950. The various democratic forces, the political parties and the mass organisations of the German Democratic Republic, had worked out a joint programme of the National Front of Democratic Germany, which accorded with the national, democratic and social interests of the people. (For further details of this programme see the chapter "The political forces in the German Democratic Republic").

On October 17th 1954 elections were held for the new People's Chamber. From 12,086,987 electors a total of 11,889,817 (98.4 per cent) went to the polls. 11,807,497 (99.3 per cent) voted for the joint list of candidates of the National Front of Democratic Germany. A total of 82,320 (0.7 per cent) electors voted against the list or gave invalid votes.

7. Is the electoral system, which is used in the German Democratic Republic, a democratic one?

The electoral system used in the German Democratic Republic is the most democratic ever used in Germany. The persons elected are bound to give their electors regular reports on the work which they have done as their representatives. Before a new election they are particularly obliged to make such reports, so that the population have a chance to judge their work before they propose them once again for candidature. If the representative has not carried out his obligations to the satisfaction of the electors they can reject him, just as they are entitled to recall their representative at any time, if he should prove unsatisfactory.

After such reporting-back meetings, the parties and the mass organisations (trade unions, organisations of women and youth, cooperatives etc.) draw up the lists of candidates. These lists must be approved by special representatives selected by

the electors. After this each candidate must present himself to the electors and explain what he intends to do. At these meetings the electors can give the candidate special commissions and the candidate, after election, is bound to report on how he has carried out these commissions. The electors have the full right to reject any of the candidates selected and to name others.

The actual act of election at the polling booth is then in fact the formal confirmation given by the elector to the programme and the list of candidates, which he himself has helped to draw up. The candidates, if elected, are bound to report back to the elector and to carry out commissions given by the elector, and the electors can at any time recall these candidates. This system guarantees that the deputies elected are genuine representatives of the people.

8. How is the Government of the German Democratic Republic formed?

The strongest fraction in the People's Chamber selects the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister forms the government. The Constitution of the German Democratic Republic lays down that the Government must include representatives of all fractions in the People's Chamber with a strength of at least 40 deputies. The fractions are represented in the Government by Ministers and State Secretaries proportional to their strength.

The government is sworn in on the Constitution by the President of the Republic and is confirmed by the People's Chamber to which it is bound to report on its work. Through its various committees the People's Chamber supervises the activity of the government.

9. Is it possible to criticize a Minister?

Yes, this happens often. Shortcomings in the work of the state machinery are sharply criticized by the People's Chamber and the Ministries and Ministers responsible are exposed to criticism.

The newspapers of the German Democratic Republic publish every justified criticism without respect to the institution or the person criticized, but these criticisms should include suggestions as to how the work can be improved.

In the past, Ministries and State Secretariats have been reorganised and Ministers and State Secretaries have been

removed on the basis of such criticism from the People's Chamber and from the public.

10. Are high positions in the State exclusively reserved for members of the Socialist Unity Party?

Any citizen who recognizes the principles of the Constitution can hold every function in the state apparatus for which he has the necessary qualifications without regard to his politics, philosophy or religion. All parties are represented in the Government of the German Democratic Republic through Ministers and State Secretaries, and throughout the high and low posts in the Administration it is possible so find members of all parties and mass organisations as well as non-party people. Members of the Socialist Unity Party are particularly well represented in these functions because the most active and progressive forces are organised in this party and because the party of the working class plays a leading role in all fields of social life. (For further particulars see "The political, forces in the German Democratic Republic".)

11. What are the particular tasks of the Ministries of the German Democratic Republic?

The government of the German Democratic Republic differs from every former government in Germany because of the fact that it acts in the interests of the working population. Its particular tasks include the leadership and direction of economic and cultural life. Special ministries, state secretariats and offices direct nationally owned industry, nationally owned trade, nationally owned transport and the various state installations in the health services and the cultural fields. For this reason there are, in the German Democratic Republic, in addition to the usual ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior etc., also Ministries and State Secretariats for Light Industry, Heavy Industry, Engineering etc.

12. What influence has the population on the work of the Government?

The influence of the population on the work of the Government is very great. The government of the German Democratic Republic does all it can to get the cooperation of the population in carrying out all tasks facing it. Various methods are used to this end.

All state offices are bound to pay regard to all written and oral suggestions, criticisms, wishes and complaints and to answer them. The population is encouraged to criticize all shortcomings and if the Ministries and other organs do not pay attention to these criticisms then they are publicly admonished.

The right to criticize is a basic right for every citizen and every member of the administration is bound by law to investigate all criticisms and can be held responsible if he does not do so.

The main field of activity for public cooperation is the putting into effect of the laws and ordinances at every level. The county, district and town councils have special "standing commissions", composed of the members of these councils, which supervise the work done by the various sections of the councils, and installations such as hospitals, schools and so on. There are standing commissions for housing, trade and supply, the health services, transport etc. The chairman of these commissions is in every case a member of the council who has the necessary qualifications. These standing commissions see to it that the decisions taken by the state and economic organisation are carried out in the interests of the working population. They see to it for instance that day nurseries are provided to help working women, that parks are provided complete with benches and children's playgrounds, that a proper supply of goods is always available in the shops of the state trading organisation, that public transport is improved and so on. The standing commission for housing questions in Stalinstadt, for instance, submitted 42 separate measures from April to December 1953 to the Town Council and all of these measures were put into effect without much alteration.

It may thus be seen that in the German Democratic Republic the old contrast between the state and the people has been overcome. The carrying out of the laws lies in the hands of the population itself and the people have become in the truest sense of the word the supporters of the state. The people of the German Democratic Republic are not subjects but confident free citizens.

13. Is the Church free in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes. There is no State Church. The Constitution lays down the right to form religious bodies. The church is guaranteed the right to give religious instruction. No one may be forced to give religious instruction or to take part in religious instruc-

tion, nor may one be hindered in this. The property of the religious bodies in buildings, church foundations etc. is guaranteed. Religious installations, religious services and religious instructions may naturally not be misused for purposes contrary to the Constitution or for party political purposes.

14. Does the Church receive material and financial support from the State in the German Democratic Republic?

In 1954 the State provided subsidies of 13 million marks for church administration and the payment of salaries for pastors. Since the foundation of the German Democratic Republic a total of 95,617,892 marks have been paid from the state budget in subsidies to the church.

From 1949 to 1954 a total of 115 million marks have been paid to the Church, if the sums paid by district and village authorities are included.

Apart from financial help the state also provides material help. Since 1950 a total of 4.8 million marks have been given as subsidies for the maintenance and restoration of church buildings worthy of preservation. Such subsidies have been paid to 252 evangelical churches, 32 catholic churches and 1 church of the evangelical community.

15. Are the judges in the German Democratic Republic independent?

The highest principle for all law organs in the German Democratic Republic is the principle of democratic legality. Article 127 of the Constitution states that judges are "independent in their jurisdiction and only subject to the Constitution and the Law". This means that no body is entitled to give instructions to the judges concerning their legal activities.

No judge or other organ of the state is entitled to act in a way contrary to the Constitution or to Law, and the State Prosecutor can and must take immediate action if this happens. The State Prosecutor's office is the highest organ controlling legality. The State Prosecutor's office is subject to, and responsible to, the government of the German Democratic Republic.

There is no judicial apparatus independent of the Constitution and the supreme representatives of the people. The judges and the State Prosecutors of the German Democratic Republic are closely allied with the working people. Under

certain specified legal conditions they can be removed from their posts.

16. What is the People's Police?

The People's Police is the protector of the social order in the German Democratic Republic. The police force protects the property of the individual and of the entire people against every criminal attack.

The officers and men of the People's Police are trusted and proved sons of the people, educated in democracy and in the defence of the interests of the working people. The West German police force on the other hand, particularly the mobile police, which is the cadre for the West German Wehrmacht which is in process of formation, is full of fascists and militarists. 62 per cent of the officers in the West German police are former Wehrmacht officers and 31 per cent are former officers of the fascist police.

The government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly proposed to the government of the West German Federal Republic that all-German negotiations should be held on the strength, armament, tasks and stationing of the police forces in both parts of Germany. These suggestions have either been rejected or no reply has been given.

17. Can citizens of the German Democratic Republic be arrested without a warrant?

No. The criminal code lays down precisely under what conditions persons may be taken into custody or arrested. Arrests may only be carried out on the basis of a written warrant, specifying the grounds for the arrest, issued by a judge. This warrant has to be shown to the person arrested, who confirms it in writing with the date and exact time of day. Paragraph 144 of the criminal code lays down that the accused is to be brought without delay before the Court, and in any case not later than 24 hours after arrest. He has to be informed of the reason for the arrest and at his first confrontation he is given a chance to justify himself. The State Prosecutor and the Court have to judge whether the continuance of custody is justified.

As in all other countries the police are entitled to take a person into custody when he is caught in the actual commission of a crime, when there appears to be a danger that he might escape, or when his identity cannot be ascertained. A person taken into custody in this manner must be produced

without delay before the District Court and examined, at the latest, on the day when he is brought before the Court. The Court is bound to take an immediate decision on the granting of a warrant.

18. Are former officers of the Wehrmacht and former members of the Nazi party full citizens in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes, people in these categories have the same civil rights and duties as all other citizens of the German Democratic Republic. On October 2nd 1952 a law was promulgated on civil rights for former officers of the fascist Wehrmacht and former members and supporters of the Nazi party. This law stated in part:

“Since the creation of the German Democratic Republic the overwhelming majority of former members of the Nazi party and its subsidiary organisations and former officers of the fascist Wehrmacht have collaborated actively in all fields of political, economic and cultural life in building a peaceful and democratic Germany. They have thus proved themselves worthy of the trust placed in them in the law of November 11th 1949 on the Remission of Expiation Measures and the Grant of Civil Rights for Former Members and Supporters of the Nazi Party and Officers of the Fascist Wehrmacht . . .

“As a logical continuation of this policy which was not based upon feelings of revenge against the officers of the fascist Wehrmacht and former members and supporters of the Nazi Party but upon guaranteeing democratic reconstruction, the People’s Chamber has passed the following law in order to give all patriotic Germans unlimited rights to participate in the construction of socialism:

Paragraph 1

“All limitations on the rights of former officers of the fascist Wehrmacht and former members of the Nazi Party or its subsidiary organisations, which were specified in the ‘Law on the Remission of Expiation Measures and the Grant of Civil Rights for Former Members and Supporters of the Nazi Party and Officers of the Fascist Wehrmacht’ are hereby cancelled. These persons are granted the same civil and political rights as all other German citizens.

Paragraph 2

“The cancellation of restrictions laid down in paragraph 1 is not extended to former members of the Nazi Party or its

subsidiary organisation or to former officers of the fascist Wehrmacht, who have been sentenced for war crimes or other crimes against humanity, which they committed as members or supporters of the Nazi Party or its subsidiary organisations, and who are serving their sentences.”

19. Is the freedom of the person guaranteed in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes. The following pages of this book will show that the full development of personal liberties in the German Democratic Republic is guaranteed, in contrast to West Germany. Every citizen of the German Democratic Republic enjoys full personal freedom in every field of economic, political and cultural life without any material oppression or dependence. The active cooperation of all citizens and open criticism of all shortcomings is supported in every way. The suppression of criticism is regarded as a serious offense in the German Democratic Republic.

The freedom of the citizen must however be protected against all attacks on his person or his property. For this reason, a state which supports peace and democracy, cannot extend freedom to criminals who attack peace and democracy.

If a private manufacturer or a big peasant tries to use speculation and the brutal suppression of weaker competitors in order to become a big business man or a landowner, he puts himself in opposition to the State and the social order in the German Democratic Republic and the organs of the State could take action against him.

In West Germany the journalist Dombrowski stated on July 21st 1950 in the “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” that it was necessary: „. . . to use the atom bomb and to create an atomic curtain right through Western Russia, that is to say to create a frontier of death.” In the German Democratic Republic nobody is allowed to make war propaganda or to propagate the use of atomic weapons against the Soviet Union or the United States or any other country. No freedom of personality is extended in the German Democratic Republic to warmongers like Dombrowski. Such persons would be punished with the full force of the law.

Freedom of personality is also not extended to those people who act in the territory of the German Democratic Republic as agents of the American “cold war”. American policy in Germany has given many proofs that terror, sabotage, threats and intervention by force in the internal affairs of other peoples have become official elements of American policy.

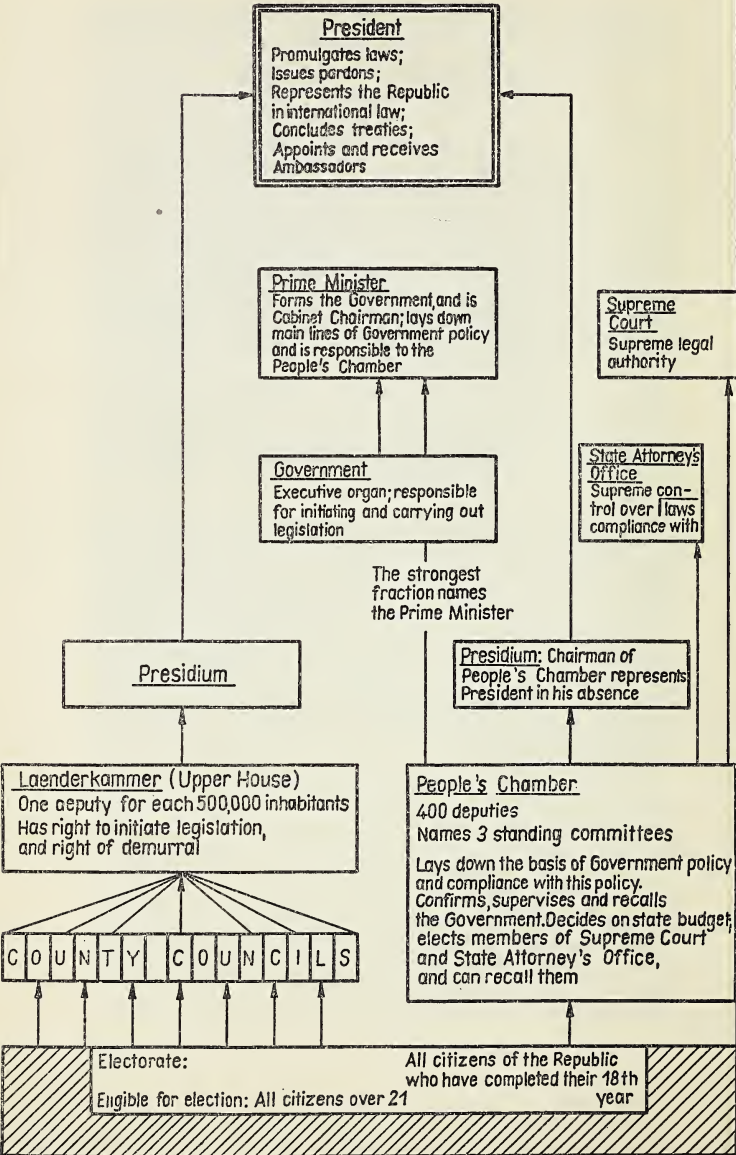
Terrorism, used as a means of preparing war, has the aim of creating conflicts between states, sharpening international tension, and disturbing the peaceful work of construction in the countries of the camp of peace.

A characteristic of American policy in Germany have been the attempts to start a new world war by launching a civil war on German soil. In October 1951 President Truman signed the so-called "Mutual Security Act". This act granted subsidies amounting to 100 million dollars for financing espionage and sabotage in the socialist countries as part of the "cold war". Part of this sum, and other subsidies from American and West German big business undertakings have been granted by Jakob Kaiser, the West German Minister for "All-German Affairs" to such espionage and sabotage organisations as the "Fighting Group against Inhumanity", the "Investigating Committee of Free Jurists" and the espionage organisation directed by Nazi General Gehlen.

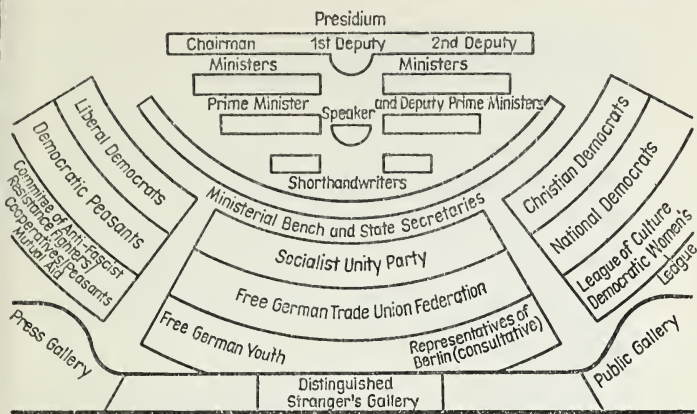
Agents of organisations like these, who attempt to prepare for a new world war through espionage and sabotage in the German Democratic Republic or who attempt to restore their old privileges to the financiers and the big landowners, do not enjoy freedom of personality in the German Democratic Republic.

Anybody who is alarmed at the arrest of such elements by the Security Authorities of the German Democratic Republic should see to it that no such agents are sent in from outside or recruited here. Every attempt of this sort will collapse as did the fascist putsch on June 17th 1953, which was aimed at overthrowing the government of the German Democratic Republic. Extensive documentary proof is available showing that on June 17th 1953 the attempt was made to conquer the German Democratic Republic by force of arms and to unleash a civil war which was to have been the forerunner of the third world war.

All Power in the State Devolves from the People



The People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic

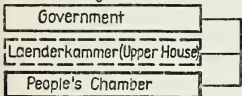


Steering Committee: Presidium of People's Chamber and Chairmen of Fractions
 Standing Committees: [Staendige Ausschuesse] Committees: [Ausschuesse]

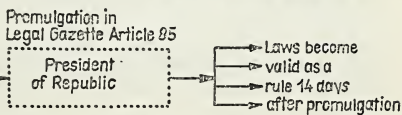
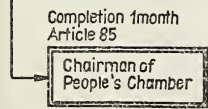
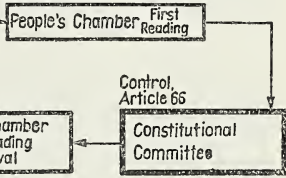
General Affairs	Standing Orders	Foreign Affairs	Agriculture and Forestry
Economics and Finance	Electoral Scrutiny	Budget and Finance	Worth and Health
Foreign Affairs	Constitutional	Economics	Education
	Pardons	Public Applications	Youth
	Legal		

Legislative Procedure

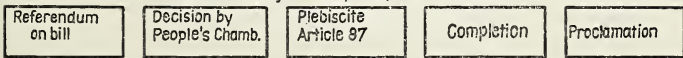
Initiation of legislation Article 82



Legislative decision Article 81



If law is rejected by People's Chamber



The position of the worker in the German Democratic Republic

1. What are nationally owned factories?

The Potsdam Agreement envisaged the destruction of too great concentrations of capital and the reconstruction of German peace economy. (Section III, point 12 and 13.)

In 1945 the second proclamation of the Allied Control Council (Section V), placed all public property and certain private property under allied control.

The commanders in chief of the various zones acted in their areas on the orders of the Allied Control Council. In accordance with these orders the Supreme Commander of the Soviet Military Administration ordered the confiscation of the property of war criminals, of the nazi party, the Hitlerite state, and also property which had been left without an owner. (Orders 124, 126, 160, 154/181.)

As the result of a plebiscite held in Saxony on June 30th 1946 such property was handed over to the people without compensation. Similar steps were then taken in Thuringia, Sachsen-Anhalt, Brandenburg and Mecklenburg. The Soviet Military Administration confirmed this decision in 1948 with Order 64. The nationally owned section of the economy became the decisive factor in production, became more stable from year to year and gave its character to the economic basis of the German Democratic Republic.

Let us take as an example the Leuna Works near Merseburg, a large factory well known outside Germany.

Until 1945 the Leuna works belonged to the owners and main shareholders of I. G. Farben, and was one of the main armaments factories. To-day with its 28,000 workers it is the largest industrial undertaking in the German Democratic Republic. This factory belongs to-day neither to individual capitalists nor to a group of shareholders: it is the property of the people. This fact is expressed quite openly in that the factory to-day bears the name "Walter Ulbricht Leuna works", having been named after Walter Ulbricht, one of the pioneers of the German working class and a comrade of such working class leaders as Ernst Thaelmann and Wilhelm Pieck.

The question as to what is produced in the Leuna works and how it is produced is to-day decided, not by the profit interests, but by the working people, the workers and peasants who control the state.

The Leuna works is only one of many key factories in the German Democratic Republic which have become nationally owned. In 1953 nationally owned and cooperative factories accounted for 85.5 per cent of the gross industrial production. The profits from the nationally owned factories (in German "Volkseigene Betrieb": literally "Factory owned by the people") do not flow into the pockets of any individuals or groups of shareholders but are used for the advantage of the people as a whole. A portion of the profits comes directly to the workers in the form of higher wages and salaries. A further portion is used to improve the social and cultural facilities for all the citizens of the German Democratic Republic: for example for pensioners, to extend hospitals and other health facilities and to support, construct and extend cultural facilities such as theatres and playing fields. The third portion is used to further the development of the economy.

The nationally owned factories are run by the state, which in the German Democratic Republic is a state of workers and peasants. All the leading responsible employees in the nationally owned industry receive salaries laid down by law and nobody is in a position to make profits as a shareholder or through the work of others. The salaries paid to the leading employees in nationally owned industry are graded according to the work done: The salary becomes higher as the work done and the responsibility taken becomes greater. A leading economic official who does not fulfil his job properly can be removed from his responsible post, for example on application by the trade union, and he then naturally loses his right to the salary hitherto paid him.

2. Who runs the nationally owned factories?

The nationally owned factories are run by the state of workers and peasants, by representatives of the working class and all working sections of the population. The Minister for Heavy Industries is for instance Fritz Selbmann, a former Ruhr miner.

The managers of the nationally owned factories, the factory directors, are either sons of the working class, veterans of the movement or members of the technical intelligentsia allied with the working class.

Let us take for example Kurt Zierold, the director of the "Deutschland" Coal Mine in the Zwickau-Oelsnitz coal basin. Kurt Zierold is an old metal worker. From 1921 to 1924 he worked as smith in the mine "Vereinigter Feldschacht" now called the "Rudolf Breitscheid" mine. Because of his participation in a strike he lost his post. In 1926 he worked above ground and in the pit in the mine "Vereinsglück" in Freital (to-day this mine is called "Albert Funk" after the well known Ruhr miner, shop steward and Reichstag deputy who was murdered by the nazis). Here too he was sacked for taking part in a strike. During the nazi period the metal-worker Kurt Zierold was repeatedly imprisoned. In 1945 he was elected by the miners in the "Deutschland" mine at Oelsnitz to the post of deputy chairman of the trade union council. In 1948 he was given the responsible task of director of the same mine. To-day Kurt Zierold receives a monthly salary of 2,400 marks, a salary fitting to the great responsibility which he bears, and he lives in a nicely furnished three room flat. His mates in the mine have the greatest confidence in him since he has remained one of them and since they know that he is acting in the interests of the working class as a whole.

The foremen in the nationally-owned factories of the German Democratic Republic have quite a different position than foremen in the privately owned factories in capitalist countries. A foreman in a nationally-owned factory is the friend and helper of the workers. His interests are the same as those of the workers: to increase the output of the nationally-owned sector of production, and thus to raise the standard of living.

3. What is a factory collective agreement?

When the working people own and direct factories then there can be no difference of principle between the factory directorship and the workers in the shops. Since all profits flow directly or indirectly to the workers the factory directorship and the workers have a joint interest to fulfil in the best way the production tasks laid down in the factory plan. That is the basis for a steady increase in the social and cultural facilities for all workers in the German Democratic Republic.

The factory collective agreement is an agreement laying down mutual obligations between the factory directorship and the workers. All tasks to be undertaken during the year are specified, both the tasks in production and the steps to be taken to improve working and living conditions and to meet the cultural needs of all the workers. The factory collective

agreement is therefore based upon the factory plan. The factory collective agreement lays down the pledges taken by the factory directorship, by the factory trade union committee and by the workers.

The factory collective agreement is drafted by representatives of the factory trade union committee and the directorship. It is then discussed in all parts of the factory and, after it has been amended in accordance with suggestions made, it is approved at a works meeting. It is then printed and a copy is handed out to every worker. The trade union committee and the directorship are obliged to account to the workers at a factory meeting every quarter on the way in which the factory collective agreement is being carried out. Such a collective agreement is concluded for a period of one year. To show what is contained in such a factory collective agreement here are some extracts from the agreement for 1954 concluded in the nationally owned Bergman-Borsig heavy engineering works in Berlin-Wilhelmsruh. It is impossible to quote the full text here since this collective agreement is 179 pages long. It specifies facts about wages, salaries, working norms and social improvements to be made by the factory directorship. (The "director's fund", mentioned in the agreement, is a percentage of factory profits devoted to improvements etc.) It includes the following pledges:

The trade union committee pledges itself:

to maintain a constant campaign for explaining and supervising conformity with the law and orders of our government, in particular the decree of Dezember 10th 1953 on the further improvement of the working and living conditions of the workers and the rights of the trade unions. This will be achieved:

- a) through a series of periodical courses for the trade union activity groups,
- b) through question and answer evenings for all the workers at which the laws will be explained and questions answered.

The work director pledges himself:

- a) to delegate to higher studies the following:
 - nine colleagues (at least five women) to the workers' and peasants' faculty of the university;
 - two colleagues to the university;
 - twentyfive colleagues (at least seven women) to the engineering school;

twenty colleagues (at least twelve women) to other technical schools;
 two colleagues to technical courses.
 to delegate for postal studies:
 five colleagues (at least two women) to university mail courses;
 ten colleagues (at least three women) to technical mail courses.

- b) to allocate 8,000 marks from the Directors Fund as study contributions for those colleagues delegated.
- c) to allocate annually 1,500 marks from section 1 of the Directors Fund for the payment of bonuses to those colleagues delegated to study who achieved results above the average.

The works director pledges himself:

to provide the following sums for improving safety precautions and factory security:

70,800 marks from the funds of the general repair plan,
 200,000 marks from general factory funds.

The factory trade union committee pledges itself:

to distribute the holiday places allocated to the factory, particularly for the summer holidays, individually in accordance with the following social composition:

production workers 75 per cent
 intelligentsia 5 per cent
 office employees 10 per cent
 family members of those employed on a percentage basis 10 per cent.

The works director pledges himself:

to provide the following sums from the Directors Fund for the development of cultural mass work

a) in accordance with the plans made by the Trade Union Federation for the house of culture	41,000 marks
b) amateur art groups	5,000 "
c) factory orchestra	5,000 "
d) band	1,000 "
e) orchestral group	1,000 "
f) amateur dramatic group	1,000 "
	<hr/>
	54,000 marks

The plan to be completed by December 31st 1954.

4. What about the co-determination rights of the trade unions?

The Constitution provides the trade union with the unlimited right of co-determination in all factory questions in the interests of the working class and in the interests of the state of workers and peasants.

On December 10th 1953 the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic held a joint meeting with trade union officials and some 300 workers from the factories, and passed the Decree on the Improvement of the Working and Living Conditions of the Workers and the Rights of the Trade Unions. This decree emphasized once again the full right of co-determination of the trade unions, stating: "They have the right to demand an accounting from the relevant ministries and from the factory directorship on the observance and carrying out of the measures affecting the direct interests of the workers."

"The ministers are obliged to cooperate with the relevant trade union groups in working out their economic plans, particularly those parts dealing with labour productivity, distribution of labour, average wages, social and cultural installations and labour safety. It is suggested that the trade unions should organise more strictly, using the principles laid down by the Federal Board, workers' control in trade and supply as well as in building and housing.

"The organs of the state and economic directorates are obliged to support unconditionally workers' control by the trade unions, to give all necessary information and to comply with suggestions for rectifying mistakes.

"In cases of wilful and negligent violations of the regulations for the protection of the workers or against particular labour safety precautions or labour safety agreements, the trade unions have the right to demand from the relevant ministries the punishment of the guilty economic directors who are responsible. In accordance with proposals made by the trade unions the relevant ministries can cancel or cut the quarterly bonuses due to the responsible economic directors who culpably do not fulfil the conditions laid down in the factory collective agreement, particularly those conditions dealing with the improvement of the material and cultural situation of the workers in the factories."

5. What tasks have the trade unions in the private factories?

The main task of the trade unions in the private factories is to represent the interests of the workers. This includes the

prevention of all reductions in wages through cutting the piece rates, the control of the strict observance of the factory agreements and safety agreements, the supervision of the wage scale in the private factories and militant support for the demands of the workers and office employees that their wages should be adjusted in accordance with the wages paid in the nationally owned factories.

Wage increases in private factories can only be achieved through negotiations with the owners. On December 10th 1953 the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic noted with approval the demands of the trade unions to the private factories and craft undertakings for wage increases. The Ministry of Finance was instructed to recognize increased wages in private factories as factory expenses for the purposes of taxation.

In the private factories too the Free German Trade Union Federation fulfills its tasks in seeing to the observance of the legally anchored right of co-determination. This expresses itself particularly with regard to the control of the fulfilment of orders placed by nationally owned factories and the observance of the decrees and orders issued by our state.

6. Can the workers in the German Democratic Republic strike?

You cannot strike against yourself. The nationally owned factories belong to the workers, they are directed by workers, and the full right of co-determination is legally guaranteed by the state of workers and peasants. The wage and price policy is determined by the working class in the interest of all citizens. In former days the German working class carried out heroic strike battles to achieve great rights. These rights have to-day become reality in the German Democratic Republic.

The laws of the state of workers and peasants and the far reaching rights of the trade unions in private industry in the fields of control and co-determination guarantee the rights of the workers and make strikes superfluous.

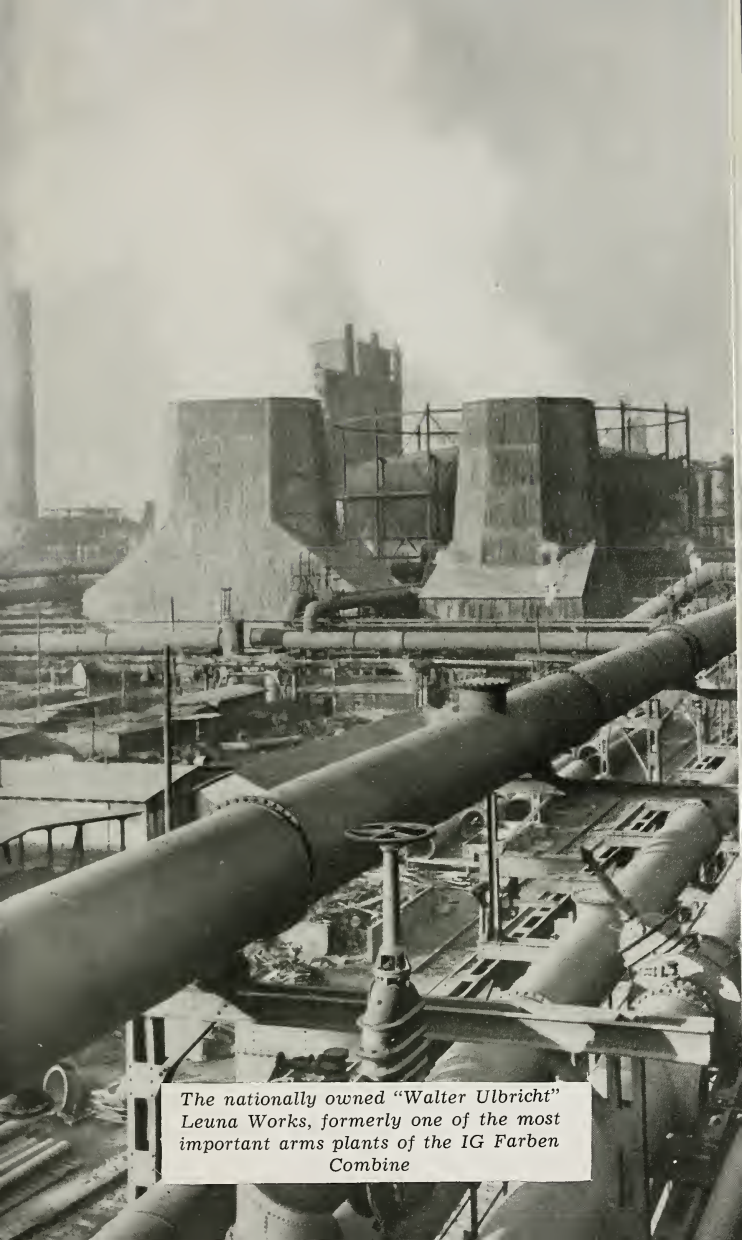
A cessation of work in the German Democratic Republic would have a negative effect on the workers, their state, and nationally owned economy. It would benefit no one except the expropriated capitalists and bankers.



*Wilhelm Pieck,
President of the German Democratic Republic*



*Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl delivering a Government statement to the
People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic on
February 3rd, 1954*



*The nationally owned "Walter Ulbricht"
Leuna Works, formerly one of the most
important arms plants of the IG Farben
Combine*



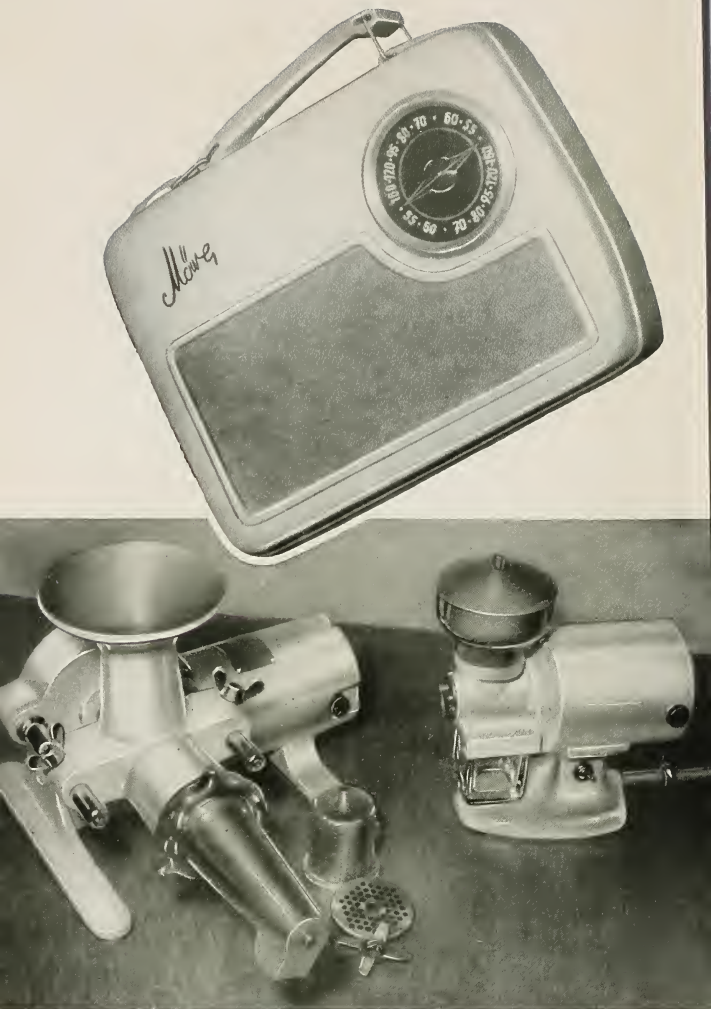
Factory polyclinic of the "Karl Liebknecht" Transformer Works in Berlin



The dental department of a factory polyclinic



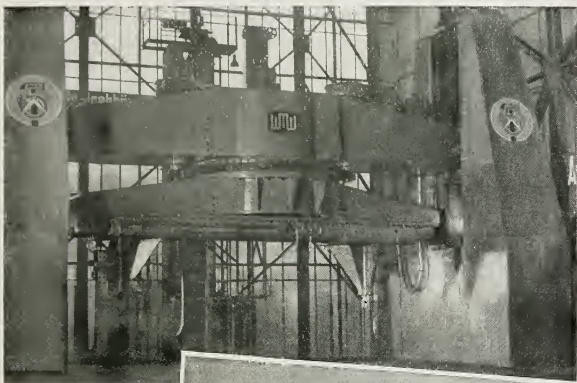
*Holiday home "Glueck Auf!" of the miners' trade union in Zinnowitz on
the island of Usedom*



*Additional consumer goods for the population are
turned out as a result of the policy of the new
course*

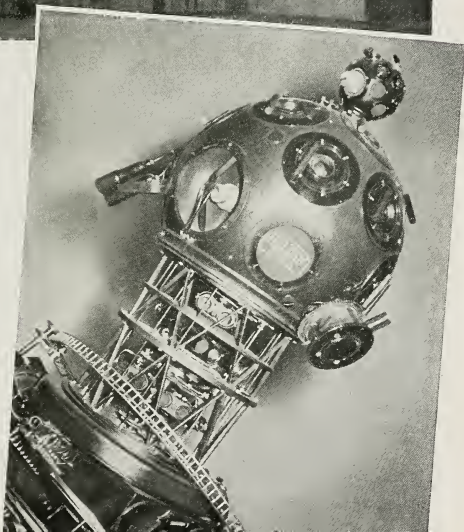
*Above: Attractive and practical portable radio
Below: Electric coffee-grinder (right) and universal
kitchen mixer for direct and alternating current (left)*

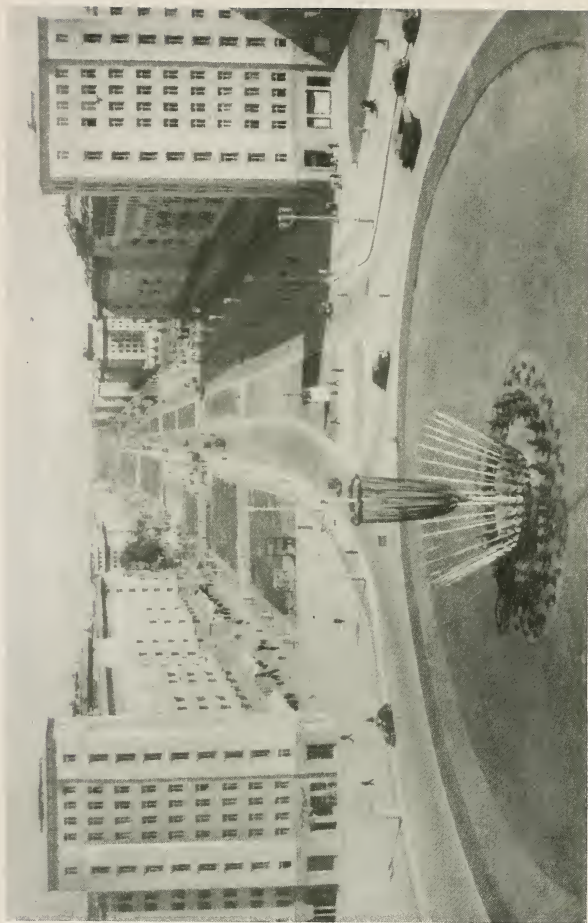
*"Praktina"
camera with
clockwork film-
shift and
17 metres of
film*



*Large scale
lathe made
in the
nationally-
owned
Bergmann-
Borsig
Factory,
Berlin*

*Part of the
projection
apparatus of
the Zeiss
Planetarium
in Jena*





Stalin Allee in Berlin

How the worker lives in the German Democratic Republic

1. What is the basic wage in the various branches of industry?

Wage group (area 1)	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII
Coal (underground)	1.20	1.30	1.43	1.64	1.91	2.42	3.07	3.85
Coal (pit head)	0.92	1.03	1.18	1.32	1.47	1.74	2.07	2.46
Ore mining as coal								
Lignite (underground)	1.06	1.19	1.36	1.43	1.73	2.18	2.73	3.43
Lignite (pit head)	1.02	1.14	1.28	1.40	1.58	1.92	2.33	2.82
Potash and slate (underground)	1.05	1.13	1.34	1.45	1.67	2.02	2.43	2.94
Potash (pit head)	1.—	1.12	1.25	1.36	1.52	1.79	2.10	2.44
Slate (pit head)	0.92	1.02	1.17	1.31	1.44	1.66	1.92	2.21
Metal working	0.98	1.07	1.21	1.31	1.47	1.80	2.20	2.70
Heavy engineering (Special) ..	0.97	1.05	1.16	1.23	1.44	1.78	2.19	2.70
Heavy engineering (general) ..	0.94	1.02	1.11	1.18	1.36	1.53	1.76	2.01
Other metal industry	0.94	1.02	1.11	1.18	1.30	1.44	1.62	1.86
Basic chemical	0.92	1.—	1.12	1.27	1.41	1.61	1.85	2.13
Other chemicals	0.86	0.96	1.07	1.22	1.31	1.41	1.51	1.60
Railways	0.92	1.—	1.08	1.19	1.29	1.51	1.78	2.07
Textile industry	0.84	0.88	0.92	0.96	1.11	1.21	1.34	1.60
Building industry	0.90	1.03	1.12	1.17	1.30	1.52	1.63	1.86
Wood industry	0.88	0.99	1.03	1.16	1.36	1.43	1.51	1.61

Factories in the democratic sector of Berlin have special wage rates since Berlin is classified as falling in a special class. The wage rates in heavy industry (Bergman Borsig) are:

1.08 1.17 1.28 1.38 1.58 1.97 2.41 2.97

This table of the basic wages in the various branches of industry does not, however, give an exact picture of the wages actually paid to the overwhelming majority of the workers, since this list gives only the details of the time wages. All workers who are paid on performance pay (payment by results), receive a "performance basic rate" which is 15 per cent higher than the basic time pay and which is paid out when the work norm is performed 100 per cent.

Special supplements are paid in addition to the time basic rate or the performance basic rate in the case of work which is particularly dirty, dangerous or injurious to health, and this special supplement is paid for the full period of such extra exertion or difficulty. This supplement is graded; it is normally 15 per cent but rises in the case of underground work and Work on high tension apparatus and electrical lines crossing railways to 25 per cent. For foundry men, rolling mill workers, and furnace men it is 20 per cent etc.

In addition to these various supplements there are the very extensive social and cultural services outlined later in the section "Care for the Workers."

Furthermore, every worker has many possibilities of improving his qualifications and earning higher wages by doing more responsible work (examples are given in answer to the question "What is a factory collective agreement?").

Finally it must not be forgotten that all jobs and professions are open to the children of workers and all other working people (see also "Education" and "Youth").

2. Has the principle "Equal pay for equal work" been put into practice in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes, it is legally guaranteed. The Labour Law of April 19th 1950 lays down in paragraph 3: "Equal pay for equal work is to be paid to all workers independent of their sex or age."

This labour law was issued to further and support working force, to increase labour productivity and to further improve the material and cultural position of the workers and office employees.

For the working people of the German Democratic Republic this achievement of our state of workers and peasants has long become a matter of course. Women and young people when they do the same work and achieve the same output receive exactly the same wages as men.

3. What about over-time pay?

Section 2 of paragraph 2 of the Decree on the Rights of the Working People lays down that factory directors and factory owners must take measures to ensure that the daily or weekly work period is not exceeded. The factory trade union committees and the safety commissions are also pledged to carry on a continuous battle against overtime work. Under exceptional circumstances (such as catastrophes or urgent repairs to avoid a stoppage of work in a factory department or a whole factory) over-time may be worked, but a supplement of 25 per cent of the normal time pay or performance pay must be paid in cases where a different percentage has not been already laid down. For drivers and assistant drivers both the actual driving time and the waiting time counts as part of their working day. Over-time work may not be compensated for by the grant of extra time off without the agreement of the workers. Where extra time off is given with the agreement of the worker, the over-time supplement must still be paid.

The Decree on the Improvement of the Working Conditions and Living Conditions of the Workers and the Rights of the Trade Unions, issued on December 10th 1953, emphasizes once again that the factory director is not allowed to commit breaches of the legally determined hours of work. In exceptional cases the district committee of the trade union concerned is allowed to give its permission on the decision of the factory trade union committee and a request of the factory directorship. Exceptional agreements on extending the time worked in a whole industry may only be made by the Central Board of the trade union concerned on the application of the relevant Minister or State Secretary. The number of overtime hours worked per person may not exceed 120 hours per year or four hours on two consecutive days.

A supplement of 50 per cent is paid for Sunday work and a supplement of 100 per cent for work on the legal holidays. The legal holidays are: May 1st, Liberation Day (May 8th) Republic Day (October 7th), New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Monday, Ascension Day, Whitsunday and Monday, Penitence Day, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. In various districts Reformation Day and Corpus Christi are also holidays. Workers of Jewish faith celebrate the Jewish New Year as a legal holiday.

Factories which are working three shifts pay a 10 per cent supplement for night work, a 50 per cent supplement for Sunday work and a 100 per cent supplement for work on legal holidays.

4. What is the difference between performance pay in the German Democratic Republic and piece rates in West Germany?

The main difference is that in the nationally owned industry of the German Democratic Republic no private employer and no shareholder can make a profit from the additional performance of the workers, since there is no exploitation of man by man. The size of the wage of the individual worker depends upon his personal performance, while the purchasing power of this wage is determined by the quantity of consumer goods available. The worker in the German Democratic Republic is therefore interested in increasing labour productivity, since he can say quite rightly: "The way we work to-day determines how we shall live to-morrow, since no capitalist can enrich himself on our work. When we produce more, better and more cheaply to-day, we shall be able to purchase more, better and more cheaply to-morrow." In the

nationally owned factories of the German Democratic Republic there are no servants of trust bosses or shareholders pressing for a speed-up in the interest of their bank accounts or their stock exchange quotations.

In the capitalist economy higher performances lead inevitably to a reduction of the piece rate and the workers are forced to work more intensively for the same wage without regard to their health. In addition, when individual performance is improved, fewer workers are necessary, so that under capitalism workers are sacked and forced to join the army of the unemployed. In the German Democratic Republic this is not possible.

In the German Democratic Republic the worker has his own interest in seeing to it that performance is paid for in accordance with the quantity, quality, difficulty and complicated nature of the work, and in accordance with the importance of the branch of industry for the entire economy (for example mining). The questions and answers which follow will show further the difference between performance pay and piece rates.

5. Is the system of performance pay used in the private factories of the German Democratic Republic?

What has already been said shows that this is not possible. In the private economy of the German Democratic Republic, that is to say in the factories which belong to private employers, there is no performance pay. Pay there is regulated on time rates and piece rates agreed between the workers and the employers. These agreements must be approved by the factory trade union committees, and they are supervised by the state and the trade unions.

6. How is performance pay calculated?

When a norm has been established for a certain job, the wage of the worker rises proportionally with each completed piece which he produces over this norm.

Norm overfulfilment is paid on the basis of the performance rate plus the percentage of overfulfilment. Here are two examples:

Face man (Mining)

Wage group VII = 3.07 marks plus 15 per cent for performance basic pay = 3.53 marks. This is the rate paid when the norm is 100 per cent fulfilled.

Norm fulfilment of 103 per cent				3.64 marks	hourly pay
"	105	"		3.71	" " "
"	110	"		3.88	" " "
"	115	"		4.06	" " "
"	120	"		4.24	" " "
"	130	"		4.59	" " "
"	140	"		4.94	" " "
"	150	"		5.30	" " "

Turner (Heavy Engineering)

Wage group VII = 2.19 marks plus 15 per cent for performance basic pay = 2.52 marks.

Norm fulfilment of 103 per cent	=	2.60 marks	hourly pay
" " 105 " "	=	2.65	" " "
" " 110 " "	=	2.77	" " "
" " 115 " "	=	2.90	" " "
" " 120 " "	=	3.02	" " "
" " 130 " "	=	3.28	" " "
" " 140 " "	=	3.53	" " "
" " 150 " "	=	3.78	" " "

(Taxation of the performance by supplement is shown on page 39.)

7. What is the tendency of wages in the German Democratic Republic and West Germany?

Since 1950 the wages of the great majority of all workers in nationally owned and private enterprises have repeatedly been considerably raised. In the same period wage taxes have been reduced and prices for consumer goods have been cut.

In September 1954 already the average earnings of industrial workers in the German Democratic Republic were about 4 per cent higher than in West Germany. Since then the difference has become still greater.

In particular the earnings of women and young people are much lower in West Germany than in the German Democratic Republic, since they receive on the average only 60 or 70 per cent of the wage paid to men for the same work. 70 per cent of all working women in West Germany have a monthly income of only 200 marks.

8. What are norms, and how and by whom are they fixed?

The norms in the German Democratic Republic are described as "technically calculated work norms". They are a measure of the quantity and quality of work to be done by each individual,

and also the quantity of material to be used. Technically calculated work norms are based upon a thorough investigation of the possibilities of improving the production technique in the relevant department, the full use of mechanisation, the improvement of labour organisation, the full use of the working day, the specialised qualifications the worker needs for his job, and the production experiences of our activists. This means that the norms are not fixed by the muscular strength or the rushed work of individual workers but by the use and utilisation of the technical facilities and better working methods in the factories.

This means that the workers do not improve their performance by exerting more effort. It is not in the interest of society to achieve better performances at the cost of the health of the workers. The principle to be followed is to produce more in the same period without greater effort by using new progressive working methods, improving the technical equipment and changing and improving the organisation of labour. An increase in production is the basis for the improvement of the living standard.

This means that the norms cannot be laid down arbitrarily by a representative of the management but that they must be the result of consultations on the shop floor in which the proposals made by the workers, the foremen and the engineers must be regarded and utilised. In our nationally owned factories the foremen are pledged to help the workers to fulfil and overfulfil their work norm and thus to earn more. They do this by teaching the workers the best methods of work and by seeing to it that good materials and tools are available.

Here is what Hans Jantek, a 23 year old face worker in the coal mine "Deutschland" in the department 6 has to say about it. Hans Jantek earns 17 marks per shift as performance basic pay and says: "I fulfil the norm between 120 and 130 per cent. In order to achieve this I do not need to rush; I do it at my normal working speed."

9. Why and how are bonuses paid?

In nationally owned industry there is a bonus system designed to give recognition to particular achievements. Various bonus systems are used in nationally owned factories to reward those workers who cannot work on the performance pay system and who do particularly good work. In addition bonuses for economy in the use of raw materials and for high quality work can be paid to workers on performance pay in addition to their usual earnings.

In the factory collective agreement of the Max Foundry for instance, it is laid down that workers on time rates (crane drivers, lorry and car drivers, repair men, grinders, transport workers etc.) can be paid bonuses of up to 20 per cent of the time rate when they do better work than the normal; when the work which they do is of particularly good quality; when the job is done in less than the time set (though safety regulations must of course be observed); and when it can be proved that material, power and so on are used in a particularly economical fashion.

In addition inventions and improvement suggestions are rewarded with bonuses, and these bonuses are calculated on the material profit which these improvements bring to the factory or nationally owned industry as a whole. It is obvious that in such cases the bonuses sometimes reach large figures. Sums of over 1000 marks are by no means seldom (more details are given in the chapter "Activists, Emulation Contests and Heroes of Labour".)

Additional bonus payments are made generally on May 1st, the world festival of the working class, Activists' Day on October 13th, and Republic Day on October 7th. In addition bonuses and gifts are donated to women on International Women's Day (March 8th).

The bonuses are not allocated behind closed doors by the factory directorship but are proposed by the workers in the shops and office departments and discussed publicly and in a comradely spirit with representatives of the factory trade union committee to ensure that the best and most worthy workers receive the bonuses.

10. What taxes do the workers pay?

There are three tax groups in the German Democratic Republic. Tax Group I: Unmarried men under 60 and unmarried women under 50 who have no children whom they must support or who are studying at universities.

Tax Group II: All married men and women and all unmarried men over 60 and unmarried women over 50 without claim to reduction for children.

Tax Group III: All men and women with reduction for children. These reductions are extended in regard to all children belonging to the household up to the age of 18 and in special cases for older children. The number of children is taken into consideration. Classification in tax group III takes place whether the wage earner is married or not.

When both the man and his wife are working, both of them are classified in the tax group corresponding with their income (see the following examples).

Performance bonuses paid from the directors fund or similar funds are free of tax. The quarterly plan fulfilment bonuses are liable to a tax of 5 per cent.

The performance pay supplements are taxed 5 per cent irrespective of size, while in West Germany piece rates are fully liable to tax. In contrast to West Germany the special pay for difficult and dirty work (dust, dirt, cold, heat and gas supplements) are tax free in the German Democratic Republic. (The mark of the German Democratic Republic and the West German mark are exchanged at 1 : 1 in inter-zonal trade.)

a) Wage taxation

First example: Monthly wage of a worker, single, 350 marks (280 marks basic pay plus 70 marks performance pay or piece rate).

German Democratic Republic

Wage tax on basic wage of 280 marks	15.—
Wage tax on 70 marks performance supplement	3.50
	<hr/>
	18.50 marks

West Germany

Wage tax on basic pay 280 marks	} 28.05
Wage tax on piece rate 70 marks	
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	3.10
	<hr/>
	31.15 marks

The worker in the German Democratic Republic thus pays 12.65 marks less tax.

Second example: Miner, married, two children, husband's monthly wage 700 marks (basic wage 550 marks plus performance supplement or piece work supplement 150 marks) Wife's monthly wage 250 marks.

German Democratic Republic

Wage tax for husband on 550 marks	38.—
Wage tax on 150 marks	7.50
Wage tax of the wife on 250 marks	0.00
	<hr/>
	45.50 marks

West Germany

Wage tax on 550 marks	} 69.75
Wage tax on 150 marks	
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	5.80

Wage tax of wife on 250 marks	0.00
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	0.00
	<hr/>
	75.55 marks

The worker and his family in the German Democratic Republic thus pays 30.05 marks less tax.

b) Taxation of salary

First example: office worker, single, monthly salary 400 marks, Working ability reduced 55 per cent by heart disease.

German Democratic Republic

Monthly salary	400.—
Amount free of tax	140.—
	<hr/>
	260.— marks

Wage tax	12.— marks
--------------------	------------

West Germany

Wage tax on 400 marks	38.05
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	3.80
	<hr/>
	41.85 marks

The office worker in the German Democratic Republic thus pays 29.85 marks less tax.

Second example: Office worker, married, two children, monthly salary 600 marks plus bonus for improvement suggestion or payment for invention 200 marks. Wife's salary 250 marks.

German Democratic Republic

Wage tax on 600 marks	50.—
Wage tax on the bonus for improvement suggestion of 200 marks	0.00
Wage tax of wife	0.00
	<hr/>
	50.— marks

West Germany

Wage tax on 600 marks	} 98.25
Wage tax on invention in factory of 200 marks	
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	7.65
Wage tax of wife	0.00
Emergency contribution for West Berlin	0.00
	<hr/>
	105.90 marks

The office worker and his family in the German Democratic Republic thus pays 55.90 marks less tax.

Care for the workers in the German Democratic Republic

1. What are the working hours?

A working day of eighth hours is legally laid down. The working week consists of 48 hours. Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 work 7½ hours daily or 45 hours weekly and young people from 14 to 16 seven hours daily or 42 hours weekly. Children under fourteen and children still attending elementary school although they are over fourteen are forbidden to work.

(For over-time see the section "Wages".)

A further shortening of working hours is envisaged for workers employed under condition dangerous to their health

2. How long are the annual holidays?

The following holidays with full pay are granted:

Workers and office workers receive a basic annual holiday of 12 working days. Amputees, cripples etc. and those who were persecuted by the Nazi regime receive three working days additional holiday.

Workers doing heavy labour or who work under conditions prejudicial to their health receive an annual holiday of 18 or 24 working days.

Leading and technical workers in responsible positions receive from 18 to 24 working days annual holiday.

Young people aged between 14 and 16 receive 21 working days holiday and young people aged between 16 and 18 receive 18 working days.

In addition, in various factories the factory collective agreement provides for extra working days of holiday in accordance with the length of employment in the factory and, in some engineering factories, the personal performance and the difficulty of the work. Sick leave and convalescent leave (apart from special leave for preventive purposes) are not subtracted from the holiday.

In mining, in the metallurgical industry and in some other branches of particular economic importance additional days of holiday are granted amounting to one day after three years employment in the same factory, two days after five years employment, and three days after ten years employment.

3. Who runs the social insurance system?

Full responsibility for the running and supervision of the social insurance system has been transferred to the Free

German Trade Union Federation. This transfer has turned into reality the demand made for decades by the German workers for a united social insurance system which they themselves run.

The social insurance system is run by a central board acting on the instructions of the Federal Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation. The Central Board has the following tasks:

1. to assure that the workers themselves run the social insurance system;
2. to cooperate in legislation in the field of social insurance;
3. to direct the social insurance bodies in the counties, districts and factories;
4. to supervise and control the entire social insurance administration.

In the counties and districts of the German Democratic Republic there are social insurance councils, headed by a chairman named by the Free German Trade Union Federation. The councils are made up of trade union members delegated by the different unions and union boards. In the factories the social insurance functionaries are elected by the members of the trade union groups. The factory social insurance council is then chosen from these functionaries. In most factories in the German Democratic Republic the chairman of the social insurance council is at the same time a member of the factory trade union committee.

4. What have people to pay for social insurance?

Every insured person pays a sum amounting to 10 % of his gross wage to the social insurance system. The factory in which he is employed also pays a sum amounting to 10 % of the gross wage of the insured person. In the mining industry the insured person pays 10 per cent and the factory pays 20 per cent. University students and students at trade schools pay a monthly sum of 6 marks, and persons receiving full scholarship support, or who are admitted at lower fees, are exempted from paying even this. The members of the family of the insured persons enjoy all the services supplied by the social insurance system.

5. What does the social insurance system do for workers in the German Democratic Republic when they fall sick?

a) How high is sick pay?

When a worker or office worker is unable to work owing to sickness he receives, from the first day of sickness, sick pay

amounting to 50 per cent of the gross wage on which he pays sick insurance contribution. In addition he can claim, once yearly for a period of six weeks, wage adjustment payments which bring his sick pay up to a total of 90 per cent of his net wage. Sick pay from the social insurance is paid out for a period of 26 weeks, and this sick pay is extended to 39 weeks, if it can be expected that he will recover sufficiently to go back to work within this period. After the six-week payment of wage adjustment has ended members of the trade union receive for a further six weeks a special sickness contribution consisting of a daily sum equal to the weekly contribution usually paid by the worker to the trade union. Workers who have been members of the trade union for an unbroken period of three years receive this assistance for seven weeks; six-year members receive the assistance for eight weeks and nine-year members for nine weeks.

If the sickness is due to an accident at work, then sick pay and wage adjustment money are paid until health has been restored or the patient has been declared a permanent invalid.

Insured persons employed in the mining industry receive, from the eighth day of sickness, a special daily supplementary payment for their husband or wife and for each child amounting to 4 per cent of their insurance contribution. Insured persons in mining with three or more children in their family receive this supplement from the 4th day of sickness.

Sick pay in the mining industry is paid out for a period of one year. Craftsmen with their own workshops receive a daily sick pay amounting to 10 per cent of their monthly contribution.

Apprentices receive a normal sick pay and for a period of twelve weeks their earnings are made up to the full amount of their net wages.

Persons suffering from tuberculosis and those injured in factory accidents receive full sick pay during hospitalisation. The full wage is paid out when women have a child for five weeks before and for six weeks after delivery and in the case of abnormal deliveries and twins, triplets etc. for eight weeks after the delivery. In addition working mothers receive a sum of 50 marks for baby clothes for each child. During pregnancy and the following nursing period working women, who are put on to lighter work during this period, receive the full wage which they previously received for their normal work.

(Further details of the treatment for mothers are given in the chapter "Concerning Women".)

Persons who were persecuted by the Nazi regime receive support 50 per cent higher than other insured persons.

When an insured person dies a special funeral payment of at least 100 marks and up to 400 marks is paid. In the case of the death of a member of the family a funeral payment of between 50 marks and 200 marks is paid. When a trade union member dies his family receives a death payment proportional to his trade union contributions and the length of his trade union membership.

b) What medical attention is given?

The insured person and members of the family receive medical treatment and all medicine etc. for an unlimited period free of charge and without the payment of any prescription fee. Hospital costs are covered by the social insurance for the insured person and family members for a period of 26 weeks. If the ability to work is likely to be restored, hospital fees are paid for up to 52 weeks and in exceptional cases for an even longer period. In cases resulting from factory accidents and occupational diseases hospital treatment is given for an unlimited period. Household money for the members of the family of the sick person amounts to 40 per cent of the insurance contribution, and in mining to 50 per cent, and pocket money for the invalid amounts to 25 per cent of the insurance contribution. In the case of hospital treatment too the factory pays, for the first six weeks, the difference between sick pay and 90 per cent of the net wage.

As already stated sick pay is payable for a period of 26 weeks. In the case of treatment in a hospital or sanatorium household money or pocket money is given instead of sick pay. If the hospital treatment lasts for more than 26 weeks and if working ability is likely to be restored within 52 weeks then the household money or pocket money is paid up to 52 weeks.

c) What do surgical shoes cost?

When orthopedic shoes or surgical shoes, ect. must be provided, the insured person and family members pay a contribution towards the cost amounting to 12 marks per pair in the case of adults and 6 marks per pair for children up to shoe size number 3. Pensioners who are not working and persons in receipt of social assistance, and the co-insured members of their family pay only 6 marks per pair without regard to the size of the shoes.

d) What about workers sent on cures?

The social insurance system in the German Democratic Republic maintains at present 33 spas and sanatoria for children

and adults, 66 convalescent homes, 35 convalescent homes for children and 68 children's rest homes. In addition the Free German Trade Union Federation runs a large number of homes for preventional rest cures. 76 T.B.-sanatoria are run directly by the Ministry of Health.

The social insurance system, like the holiday service of the trade unions, has many former castles, chateaux and villas which used to belong to war criminals and which are now used for health purposes. They have been converted into sanatoria and convalescent homes. The spas are no longer reserved for people with plenty of money, as used to be the case for instance in Bad Elster, but have become real people's spas, available to all working people.

70 per cent of the accomodation for cures and convalescent cures is reserved for production workers. Office employees have 15 per cent of the vacancies reserved for them and other insured persons, including family members, dispose of the remaining 15 per cent.

For preventive cures 75 per cent of the accomodation is reserved for production workers and 25 per cent for office employees. The vacancies are distributed to members of the trade unions through the social insurance council in the factory.

In 1953 children were given a total of 14,000 medical cures, 16,000 convalescent cures and 61,000 preventive cures.

The number of cures is rising steadily. In 1945 a total of 6690 cures were provided; in 1948 the number was 92,283, in 1950 it was 238,000 and in 1952 it has risen to over 392,000. For 1954 it was planned to raise the number to 452,000. This does not include the T. B.-treatments which have been provided since 1952 by the Ministry of Health.

Between 1947 and 1952 a total of 1,311,984 workers and office workers were treated in the sanatoria and convalescent homes run by the social insurance.

The social insurance system of the German Democratic Republic has devoted the following sums to medical cures etc.:

1945	. . . . .	9,000,000	marks
1946	. . . . .	10,200,000	„
1947	. . . . .	20,500,000	„
1948	. . . . .	58,400,000	„
1949	. . . . .	84,900,000	„
1950	. . . . .	106,100,000	„
1951	. . . . .	139,700,000	„
1952	. . . . .	160,000,000	„

These figures show what attention is being devoted to the care of people in the German Democratic Republic.

For all insured persons and the members of their families these cures are provided entirely free. That is to say the social insurance pays the fares and the full cost of the stay, the food, the medicine, medical attention etc.

The medical cures extend over a period of 28 days. They are granted to insured persons who are so sick as to be unable to work and also to those who, though able to work, are in such a state of health that it is advisable for them to go to a sanatorium or spa. The following monetary payments are made in connection with these cures: Insured persons supporting families receive household money for the period of the cure amounting to 40 per cent of their average gross earnings during the proceeding 13 weeks. Insured persons who have no family to support receive during the cure pocket money amounting to 25 per cent of the same sum.

e) Who gets old age pensions and invalid pensions?

When the insured person is invalided out of work he gets his pension which is paid after he has been insured for five years. Old age pensions are paid to women who have completed their 60th year and to men who have completed their 65th year after they have been insured for a period of fifteen years. Old age pensioners can continue at work and the pension is paid in full irrespective of the sum which they earn. Miners are paid their full pension when they reach the age of 60, and if they have been insured as miners for 25 years and have worked underground for fifteen years, they receive their pension at the age of 50. In this case too the pension is naturally not cut, if they continue to work, irrespective of how much they earn. Widows of miners receive the full widow's pension when they complete their 55th year.

The Free German Trade Union Federation pays individual members who have been organised in a trade union for at least 40 years and who receive less than 200 marks monthly, a special monthly contribution of 10 marks.

(For details of pensions paid see the chapter "How do pensioners live in the German Democratic Republic?")

f) What subventions does the social insurance system receive from the state?

In 1953 the government of the German Democratic Republic paid subventions of 388 million marks to the social insurance system. In contrast to this figure is the fact that the West

German state budget took the sum of 805 million marks in 1953 from social insurance funds.

6. What is the position with regard to safety precautions?

On the basis of the relevant legislation labour safety agreements are concluded annually in the factories which provide the basis for a labour safety programme in accordance with the demands of the workers. These labour safety agreements lay down the cost and the timing of all measures to be taken by the factory in the course of the year to improve labour safety. These agreements define the full personal responsibility of the works director or factory owner, and the co-determination right of the trade unions in carrying out the labour safety measures. All protective measures, for instance milk and protective clothing, are provided for workers without charge.

7. Who supervises the labour safety measures?

Trade union labour safety commissions or labour safety functionaries are elected to supervise the way in which labour protective measures are carried out. They have the right to investigate sources of danger and dangerous stages in the work in the various departments, to propose protective measures to the persons responsible and to advise these persons on accident prevention, etc. If they ascertain deficiencies they are entitled to demand the immediate or early removal of such deficiencies.

The works director or factory owner is obliged to act in accordance with such demands.

The labour safety functionaries must be given the necessary time on full pay to carry out their duties.

The government and the trade unions devote considerable funds to the promotion of labour safety measures. Labour safety conferences are frequently held in which these questions are discussed and labour safety functionaries are advised and given instructions.

8. Are norms overfulfilled at the cost of safety?

Under no circumstances. The labour safety functionaries and commissions supervise, as the elected trade union representatives of the workers, not only the strict observance by the factory directors of all safety measures, but they also explain and popularise safety measures amongst the workers. They ban all work which constitutes a breach of the safety regula-

tions and struggle consistently against all avoidable over-time and Sunday work.

As a result the accident figures in the German Democratic Republic are steadily falling. In the first half of 1953 for instance, the accident figures were 11.5 per cent lower than for the same period of the previous year. In West Germany on the other hand accident figures are steadily rising as a result of increasing rationalisation and speed-up. Accidents at work increased in West Germany by 40 per cent between 1949 and 1953.

9. What must be considered when we judge the living standard of the worker in the German Democratic Republic?

The living standard of the worker in the German Democratic Republic cannot be judged simply on the basis of the wages, the taxes and the prices for food and consumer goods (for details on prices see the chapter "Trade and Supply in the German Democratic Republic").

In a state of workers and peasants the workers enjoy the results of their labour in other forms too, forms which cannot be expressed in terms of money or be measured in wages. The description given above of the services provided by the social insurance system has already shown that the workers enjoy facilities which in West Germany are reserved for the well-to-do. The following questions and answers give more information on this point.

10. What about health services in the factories?

It is legally laid down that factories with more than 50 and less than 2000 workers must maintain, according to the size of the factory medical rooms or factory first aid departments. Factories with over 2000 workers must be provided with factory clinics with 20 or 30 rooms or, in the case of factories employing over 4000 people, factory polyclinics with 40 to 90 rooms.

Approximately 3500 nationally owned factories already have such installations.

The Decree for the Further Improvement of the Working and Living Conditions of the Workers and the Rights of the Trade Unions lays down:

a) Improved health services

the network of out-patient care in the factories (polyclinics, clinics and first aid stations) must be extended.

In 1954 about 100 million marks were to be provided. The supply and equipment of the existing hospitals, polyclinics and clinics is to be improved.

b) Rest rooms and overnight sanatoria

Factories employing more than 500 people, and mainly women, must in the next three years instal rest rooms. Large factories, particularly those where work dangerous to health is done, should have over-night sanatoria and rest homes.

The over-night sanatorium is an installation designed both to prevent sickness and to treat sickness. The advantage of such installations is that the factory workers being treated there can continue with their normal work.

c) Free protective clothing

The Ministry of Health must issue a catalogue of the protective clothing to be provided free by the factories. (This catalogue was issued in September 1954 and is binding upon the factories concerned.)

11. What is a factory polyclinic like?

Each factory polyclinic must include a department for internal diseases, for obstetrics, a surgical department and a dental department.

In addition the larger factory polyclinics must include an ear-nose-and-throat department, an ophthalmic department and an X-ray department and must employ at least two doctors for internal diseases.

This is the type of factory polyclinic to be found in the "Optima" typewriter factory at Erfurt, one of the most modern and best polyclinics in the German Democratic Republic.

This factory polyclinic consists of 72 rooms equipped with all the necessary apparatus and equipment. The government of the German Democratic Republic contributed 600,000 marks for the building of this clinic.

Three doctors work in the general and internal department. Specialists are employed to deal with skin diseases, the ear-nose-and-throat department and the ophthalmic department. The polyclinic also has a surgeon, a gynecologist, for the more than 2000 women workers, and the dental department employs two dentists. False teeth are made on the spot in the technical laboratories.

All the doctors in the factory polyclinic are employees of the state health services and not of the factory as in West

Germany. This gives a guarantee that the factory doctors represent, without any limitation, the interests of the workers.

The clinic in the "Optima" factory also provides medicinal baths of all types and other treatment such as ray treatment, heat treatment and so on. Massage and rest rooms are also available.

The well equipped clinical laboratory can carry out cardiological examinations and analysis of stomach juices and other medical examinations.

In earlier days when there was no factory polyclinic with its own laboratory, the workers often had to wait very long for the results of such examinations.

The fact that the polyclinic itself dispenses medicines means a great saving of time.

The factory polyclinic has its own X-ray department with first class equipment for examination and X-ray photography.

The doctors employed in such a polyclinic have as their first task the practice of preventive medicine and the dissemination of medical knowledge. They naturally also have to give good medical treatment to those who fall sick.

Routine medical examinations are carried out regularly as part of the preventive programme. In order to detect and remove the sources of sickness, the factory doctors regularly inspect the factory together with the labour safety commission.

The factory doctors, in cooperation with the social insurance commission elected by the workers, make an analysis of the increase and decrease of sickness, and prepare statistics on the causes of sickness. The results of their investigations help them to improve the health of the workers through routine examinations and medical treatment.

To spread medical knowledge films are shown from time to time in the various factory departments on tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. The spreading of information on healthy habits also forms part of the medical programme.

The factory polyclinic also gives instruction to the members of the German Red Cross and holds aid courses for 30 members.

The workers of the nationally owned "Optima" factory are rightly proud of their factory polyclinic.

Treatment in a factory polyclinic is provided, like all other medical treatment, free of cost for an unlimited period, and no prescription fee has to be paid.

12. What other facilities are provided in the factories?

In all larger nationally owned factories there are day nurseries and creches in which the children are cared for by trained personnel.

The state devotes great attention to the training of such personnel and the number of nursery school assistants who have taken the state examination is steadily increasing.

Workshops for the repair of clothing and shoes are also being established in the factories.

13. Are there factory canteens?

Yes. By September 1954 there were 7,500 factory canteens in the German Democratic Republic. In these canteens, most of which are well equipped, with table-cloths, flowers on the tables and pictures on the walls, good meals with plenty of variety are served by the canteen staff. The canteen staff are employed by the factory funds. This enables the price of meals to be held at a low level, and meals average between 30 and 90 pfennigs, according to the size of the subsidy. More than 170 big factory canteens provide a choice of three or more dishes every day.

In 1954 2,200,000 workers ate in their canteens daily. The meals are off the ration, and they include between 50 and 140 grammes of meat, 20 grammes of fat and 20 grammes of sugar daily, apart from potatoes, bread, vegetables etc.

14. What holiday facilities have the workers?

In the holiday resorts, formerly frequented by the well-to-do, the trade unions have 267 holiday homes of their own, and in addition they have contracts with 691 other holiday homes, thus providing the best facilities for all holiday makers. In Tabarz, Thuringia, and in Zeuthen near Berlin new holiday homes, each with accommodation for 100 people, were built and in Friedrichroda a new holiday home with accommodation for 300 people was completed in summer 1954.

The most popular holiday areas are the Baltic Coast, Thuringia, the Harz mountains and Saxon Switzerland, and holiday homes are situated both in the big resorts and in smaller villages. On the Baltic Coast holiday makers can go to Heringsdorf, Bansin, Zinnowitz, Kühlungsborn, the island of Rügen and Hiddensee and many other places. Schierke in the Harz mountains is one of the most popular holiday centres both in summer and in winter. Many of the holiday homes of the trade unions are situated in mountain centres in Thuringia,

such as Oberhof, Schmiedefeld and Frauenwald. Other workers spend their holidays in the well equipped holiday homes of the trade unions in the Erzgebirge mountains and in Saxon Switzerland.

Between 1950 and 1952 the government and the trade unions devoted more than 27 million marks to the building of holiday homes and to subsidies designed to make holidays cheaper. The financial contributions from the state and the trade unions grow from year to year. In 1953 the trade unions devoted 13,7 million marks to holiday services and holiday camps; in 1954 this sum was raised to 38.6 million marks. In 1953 the government provided 5.75 million marks for these purposes and raised this sum to 9.95 million marks in 1954.

The number of holiday journeys is steadily increasing. In 1947, when the holiday service of the trade unions began work, a total of 17,500 holiday journeys were organised. In 1953 the number had risen to 600,000 and in 1955 it will rise to 800,000. Between 1947 and 1953 a total of 2,079,500 workers and office workers spent their holidays in the holiday homes of the trade unions.

Zinnowitz on the Baltic Coast used to be a place where only the well-to-do could afford to spend their holidays. In the summer season of 1953 a total of 38,000 working people spent fourteen days happy holidays here. During the holiday season four special trains, equipped with club cars, cinema and restaurant cars, run weekly between Karl Marx Stadt (the former Chemnitz) and Zinnowitz.

In addition to the holiday homes maintained by the trade unions, the large nationally owned factories have a large number of holiday homes of their own.

The "Walther Ulbricht" Leuna works for instance has finely equipped factory rest homes in Koserow on the island of Usedom and at Tabarz in the Thuringian mountains.

15. What does a holiday cost?

A thirteen day holiday costs the worker only 30 marks. The actual cost of the holiday is 75 marks but the difference is made up by the trade union.

In 1953 the trade union subvention to make holidays cheaper amounted to 7,485,000 marks. In 1954 this sum was raised to 16,440,000 marks.

Visitors to the holiday homes are automatically insured against loss of luggage and against accident and they pay nothing for this insurance.

All trade union members have a 33⅓ per cent reduction in railway fares for holiday trips, even if they have not received accomodation in a trade union holiday home.

The trade union organisations in the factories supervise the entire holiday service and are entitled to grant further subventions to holiday makers. 40 per cent of the trade union contributions remain in the hands of the factory trade union organisation and 10 per cent of this sum is allocated for holiday purposes. In addition the factory directors of nationally owned factories make grants towards the cost of holiday trips. Workers who have done a particularly good job often receive free holiday trips in recognition of their work.

16. What other holiday possibilities are there?

In 1951 the holiday services of the trade unions in the German Democratic Republic participated for the first time in international holiday exchange schemes. Since then every year several thousand of the best workers, office workers and members of the intelligentsia have been able to spend their holidays in the resorts of friendly countries, in Marianske Lazne, Zakopane, on the Black Sea, in the Rumanian mountains, and so on. Such holidays are a recognition of good work and all costs are paid by the trade unions.

Trade unionists from West Germany and West Berlin are invited to spend their holidays in the trade union homes of the German Democratic Republic, and thus have a chance to see for themselves the successes won by the working class in the German Democratic Republic.

Every winter 500 agricultural workers and workers from brick works and saw mills, who otherwise have little opportunity to visit the cities, receive special 14 day holidays in a big city. The costs of these holidays are borne by the trade unions.

17. Are there holiday homes for children?

Yes, children's holiday camps are run to provide happy holidays for the children of the working people. The factories and the schools are mainly responsible for running these camps. In 1952 a total of 420,000 spent their holidays in 3190 factory holiday homes and 65,000 more children in 39 camps run by the Young Pioneers: In 1953 a total of 530,000 children visited 4049 factory camps and 75,000 children visited 49 pioneer camps. (The "Young Pioneers" is a voluntary spare-time organisation for boys and girls aged 6—14, providing sports, hobbies etc.)

In 1953 the trade unions provided 2.3 million marks for these camps, the government 12 million marks and the social insurance system 5 million marks. In 1954 these sums were greatly increased. The trade unions provided 8 million marks, the government 45 million marks and the social insurance system 5 million marks.

18. What cultural installations are provided in the factories?

At present there are 516 club houses or houses of culture in the nationally owned factories. These are buildings either in the factory itself or nearby, which are excellently furnished and equipped. These club houses provide club rooms with comfortable arm chairs, music rooms with instruments, big, well stocked, libraries and reading rooms, theatres, cinemas and dance halls.

In addition every nationally owned factory, according to size, provides one or more club rooms with facilities for reading, games and recreation. A total of 5305 such club rooms exist at the moment in the German Democratic Republic.

In addition the nationally owned factories dispose of about 9000 study rooms etc. for the scientific and technical training of the workers, more than 8000 libraries, 150 full sized cinemas and a large quantity of sub-standard film projectors. 250,000 workers have joined one of the 12,000 folk-art groups which entertain their colleagues after work and on holidays with songs, dances and other forms of art.

The Central Board of the Free German Union Federation provided 34.8 million marks in 1953 for lectures, folk-art groups, study circles, libraries and so on. In addition money is provided from the Director's funds of the nationally owned factories and from the factory trade union funds for cultural purposes.

19. Is there any unemployment in the German Democratic Republic?

The planned and crisis-free economy in the German Democratic Republic excludes the possibility of mass unemployment or short-time working. The spectre of unemployment has been banished once and for all. The worker knows that he will have work not only to-day and to-morrow but also next month and next year — in fact that he will always have work. He knows that he will have full employment the whole year round and that he can depend upon a steadily rising real income. If here and there a few persons are temporarily with-

out work, this is generally due to local technical reasons, for instance the reorganisation of a branch of industry or the special skills of the worker for which there is no demand in his district at the moment. In the territory of the German Democratic Republic as a whole the work available is far greater than the working force.

Activists, Emulation Contests and Heroes of Labour

1. What are "activists" und "emulation contests"?

Those readers who have studied the proceeding pages of this book and the information they give on the life of the workers in the German Democratic Republic will not find it surprising that in such a state of workers and peasants there are many thousands of workers who declare: "I have exceeded my work norm because I am no longer working for the capitalists but for my factory and our whole people — and thus for myself too".

But it was one particular worker who first formulated his thoughts in this way: the miner Adolf Hennecke, who on October 13th 1948 used new working methods and overfulfilled his norm by 380 per cent. At that time quite a lot of workers laughed at him or made fun of him. But to-day there are tens of thousands of activists in all branches of industry, and in the administration too, and nobody would think of laughing at them or being angry with them.

To be an activist means to raise labour productivity, to improve quality, to increase the quantity of goods available and to reduce costs and thereby, eventually, the prices.

To be an activists means to help those colleagues who are lagging behind and to exchange experiences gained so that everybody can keep up with the best and the most diligent.

For the same reason work brigades, factory departments, factories and entire industries in the nationally owned economy arrange emulation contests. These emulation contests have various aims, for instance the introduction on a broad basis of new working methods; the speedy dissemination of improvements; the improvement of the technology of the production process; the improvement of labour organisation; technical foundation of work norms; better utilisation of machinery; further training of the workers; reduction of waste and improvement of quality; economy in the use of raw material and power; and utilisation of internal reserves. (Internal reserves are existing factories, machines, raw materials etc. which are not yet fully utilised.)

The factory directorship supports emulation contests by steadily improving the social and cultural measures available for the workers. These are the reasons why there are activists and emulation contests in the nationally owned economy of the German Democratic Republic. In the factories owned

by private capitalists there are naturally neither activists nor emulation contests, although the workers in these factories see to it that orders placed by nationally owned industry or nationally owned trade are fulfilled punctually and with goods of the proper quality.

2. Does an activists work at the sacrifice of his health?

No. An activist has to work not with his muscles but with his brains. The activists plan and organise their work better, avoid all wasteful standing around and improve the output of their machines. The section "Labour Safety" already showed that no work may be done under conditions contrary to the labour safety regulations and the health regulations.

Here are some examples of the work of activists:

In the foundry of the Thale Iron and Foundry Works the 52 year old worker Josef Borowski runs a special machine making feet for bath tubs. In order to fulfill his norm he had to pour sand 32 times into forms, take out the pattern, put in the foot-core, take away the frame, move the form weighing 39 kilogrammes and then cast the iron. He had to do all this in order to fulfill his norm. He organised the work better and soon found that instead of 32 forms he could cast first 40, then 50, 60 and finally 80 forms. He organised his work still better and found he could cast not only 80 but even 135 and 140 forms. He was able to do this because he asked himself why he should always bend down, thus using up both time and energy. He tried pressing the sand down skilfully and found that that served just as well. Then he asked himself why he always had less forms than iron early in the morning and he came to the conclusion that if he started work one hour earlier and finished one hour earlier, he would achieve the right work rhythm. And this was successful too. Then he made the further improvement of planing each hour and reserving the last hour for preparing the work to be done on the next day. And when Josef Borowski had arranged everything in this manner, he found that he was making no more useless movements, saving time and strength, and thus achieving better results.

Fritz Buchwalter works in the boiler making department of the Bergmann-Borsig factory in Berlin-Wilhelmsruh. He constructed an exhaustor unit which removed the dust and the smoke which was nearly throttling the workers who welded the joints inside the boilers. In addition he introduced an new welding method, proved in the Soviet Union, by which bundles of electrodes are used and managed to make new improvements in this method.

In the foundry of the nationally owned engineering works at Halle, the monthly casting output was raised in 1949 from 80 tons to 175 tons without increasing the number of workers. This was done by introducing a whole series of improvements in the organisation of the work. The skilled workers did only the highly skilled jobs and the other work was done by unskilled workers. More attention was devoted to the preparation of patterns, the delivery of raw materials and the collection of the items already cast. By these methods labour productivity was increased by 115 per cent.

In the mechanical department of the nationally owned Halle/Saale works a turner proposed a new method of working cylinder parts by which three cutting tools were used simultaneously. The time taken for the production of this part was thereby reduced to only 45 per cent of the time previously taken.

The chapter "How do the workers live in the German Democratic Republic?" describes how these activists, and other workers, receive special bonuses for work improvement suggestions and for inventions.

3. How big are the premiums?

The government of the German Democratic Republic has laid down regulations for proper and speedy handling of inventions and improvement suggestions made in the nationally owned economy and also regulations on the compensation to be paid for improvement suggestions and inventions.

Ministers, state secretaries, county council chairmen and the managers of the nationally owned factories are responsible for seeing to it that useable improvement suggestions and inventions are put into operation without delay.

All nationally owned factories have special departments for dealing with inventions and improvements.

An improvement suggestion is any suggestion for a technical refinement, a rationalisation of production, or an improvement of administrative work, or which in any other way is calculated to produce economic or other advantages for the economy. It is not necessary that such a suggestion should be a innovation or something technically new. An improvement suggestion is also valuable when it produces a technical or organisational improvement in the factory, even when such improvements are already known in other places. An improvement which includes a patentable invention is dealt with according to the regulations of the Patent Law. This insures that the patented invention remains the property of the in-

ventor. All other improvement suggestions are divided into three groups.

The first group is made up of technical refinements which may approach the rank of inventions. They are something new and their main characteristic is that they improve or change the product itself or the tools used to make it.

The second group of improvement suggestions includes the suggestions for using more efficiently the tools or material in the production process without changing the method of production, the means of production or the product. In this group fall all improvements which increased the efficiency of the human labour element in the production process.

The third group is made up of improvements in administrative work, improvements which simplify or make more effective the organisation or the method of work. Improvement suggestions in factory administration include for instance improvements in the book-keeping, of the documentation, supply, sales etc.

The classification of the improvement suggestions is of importance with regard to the size of the compensation paid. All compensation up to 10,000 marks is free of tax. Both the statistically calculable gain from the improvement and the non-calculable gain are taken into consideration when the size of the compensation is calculated. Technical improvements (group 1) may bring compensation of up to 25 per cent and improvements in group 2 of up to 12.5 per cent. Here are details of the compensation paid.

For Technical Refinements:

<i>Saving</i>		<i>Compensation</i>			
up to	1,000	marks	25 per cent	but at least	30 marks
from	1,001 to	5,000	12	" " +	130 "
from	5,001 to	10,000	8	" " +	330 "
from	10,001 to	50,000	5	" " +	650 "
from	50,001 to	100,000	3	" " +	1,700 "
from	100,001 to	250,000	2.5	" " +	2,250 "
from	250,001 to	500,000	2	" " +	3,500 "
from	500,001 to	1,000,000	1.5	" " +	6,000 "
over	1,000,000	"	1	" " +	11,000 "
but not more than					30,000 "

For Improvement Suggestions (rationalisation of production)

<i>Saving</i>		<i>Compensation</i>			
up to	1,000	marks	12.5 per cent	but at least	20 marks
from	1,001 to	5,000	6	" " +	65 "
from	5,001 to	10,000	4	" " +	170 "
from	10,001 to	50,000	2.5	" " +	350 "
from	50,001 to	100,000	1.5	" " +	860 "
from	100,001 to	250,000	2.15	" " +	1,120 "
from	250,001 to	500,000	1	" " +	1,800 "
from	500,001 to	1,000,000	0.75	" " +	3,100 "
over	1,000,000	"	0.5	" " +	5,600 "
but not more than					15,000 "

Here is an example:

Two mechanics, named Gruhlke and Dittberger, who work in the nationally owned clothing factory "Fortschritt I" in Berlin-Lichtenberg constructed a two-needle-sewing machine for working the cuffs on men's trousers. In addition they equipped this machine with a special guide foot. This machine proved very popular with the workers in the factory and saves the Fortschritt factory nearly 18,000 marks a year. The two mechanics received a bonus of 1,530 marks which is, as may be seen from the table, 5 per cent of the saving plus 650 marks.

4. Does the work of activists have an effect on prices?

Yes. It is due to the activists and to all workers who help to increase labour productivity that there were three price reduction in 1949 which saved purchasers 2,000 million marks; in 1950 there were five price reductions saving 2,800 million marks; in 1951 there were five price reductions saving 300 million marks. At the end of 1953 the great price reduction in October and other price reductions for individual goods produced a yearly saving of 3,900 million marks. On September 3rd 1954, the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic announced a new price reduction, the sixteenth in all, which raised the purchasing power of the population by the end of 1954 by about 600 million marks, which represents a saving in 1955 of 1,800 million marks.

5. The Heroes of the workers' and peasants' state

In a state of workers and peasants the population and the youth have different heroes from those in a capitalist state. In West Germany for instance, as in former times, medals and titles are distributed to the industrial bosses, the bankers and the junkers, to the people who exploit and oppress the workers. In a state of workers and peasants on the other hand, those persons are honoured who do something to the advantage of the people. In the German Democratic Republic the heroes and models for the youth are the best representatives of the working people: workers, peasants, scientists and artists. They receive from the government or from the trade unions not only titles of honour but also material recognition.

Titles of Honour

The title "Hero of Labour" is one of the supreme titles in the field of economic and cultural construction. It is awarded for outstanding individual achievements which are of importance

to all and which lead to a considerable increase in labour productivity, and also for inventions which are of outstanding economic, social or cultural importance. The award consists of a silver medal, a diploma and a bonus of 10,000 marks. There are to-day more than two hundred "Heroes of Labour" in the German Democratic Republic.

On December 10th 1953 the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic decided to institute a new order, the "Banner of Labour" to encourage the emulation contest movement. This medal is awarded to the best workers, intellectuals, peasants and office workers as well as to factories, machine tractor stations, nationally owned estates, agricultural production cooperatives and so on.

The title of "Honoured People's Doctor" is awarded on the birthday of the great German doctor Robert Koch to those who have done outstanding work in the field of health. A premium of 8,000 marks is awarded with this order. "Honoured Railway Workers" receive a medal, a diploma and a bonus of 5,000 marks. Teachers who have done outstanding work in the schools in educating German youth in the spirit of peace receive the title "Honoured People's Teacher" and a bonus of 5,000 marks.

"Honoured Miners" receive from the hand of the Prime Minister a silver medal, a diploma and a tax free bonus of 10,000 marks. The title of "Honoured Activist" is awarded to workers and office workers who have done outstanding work for a six months period in the same fields as that done by "Heroes of Labour". They receive a bronze medal and a tax free bonus of 1000 marks. A bonus of the same size is paid to those miners who received the title "Master Pit Man" on Miners' Day. They also receive a badge of honour and a diploma.

Inventors responsible for technically valuable improvement suggestions and inventions receive the title of "Honoured Inventor" together with a diploma and a bonus, the size of which depends on the economic importance of their invention.

The best workers, foremen, technical ins and engineers of the nationally owned factories receive the title of honour "Activist of the Five Year Plan". They are awarded a bronze medal, an activist's diploma and a tax free premium from the director's fund of between 100 and 250 marks.

The best office workers in nationally owned factories, the administration, banks, the insurance system, the health and educational system, in cultural life and research institutes are awarded the medal "For Outstanding Services". They receive

a diploma and a tax free bonus, the size of which is determined by the directors of the factories or institutes together with the trade union committees.

Foremen can receive the titles "Best Foreman of the Factory", "Best Foreman of the Industrial Group" or "Honoured Foreman". The title "Best Foreman of the Industrial Group" brings with it a premium from government funds of 1000 marks and the title "Honoured Foreman" carries a bonus of 3000 marks.

The skilled workers who have produced the best results in individual emulation contests, receive titles of honour such as "Best Face Worker", "Best Turner", "Best Tractorist" etc. They receive a diploma and a tax free bonus of not less than 100 marks. Those workers who hold such a title for at least one year receive a bonus from government funds of 500 marks.

Workers in nationally owned factories who developed new forms of emulation contests, new forms of labour organisation and production and who show good results in emulation contests can be awarded the medal "For Outstanding Achievements in Emulation Contests" and a tax free bonus of between 250 and 1000 marks.

Technicians who have done particularly good work in the field of constructive developments, the technical developments of industrial processes and the development of young workers receive the title "Honoured People's Technician". This title brings with it a tax free bonus of up to 8000 marks together with a diploma and a medal.

The title "Outstanding People's Scientist" is awarded to scientists who have done outstanding work in the scientific field to develop science in the service of peace. The title carries with it a medal, a diploma and a bonus of 40,000 marks.

The highest honour awarded is the "National Prize" which is granted to men and women who have done outstanding work in the democratic development of the German people through their scientific work, important technical inventions, the introduction of new production and labour methods and through important works and achievements in the field of art and literature.

Every year the following national prizes are awarded: In the field of science and technology, five prizes of the 1st class, each of 100,000 marks; ten prizes of the 2nd class, each of 50,000 marks; and fifteen prizes of the 3rd class, each of 25,000 marks; in the field of art and literature there are three prizes of 100,000 marks, six prizes of 50,000 marks and nine prizes of 25,000 marks.

Collective awards in emulation contests

The factory which wins the emulation contest of the centrally directed nationally owned factories receives a banner from the government together with diplomas from the Cabinet and the Central Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation, and a monetary bonus varying according to the size and type of the factory. For this award factories are classified in three categories.

In category 3, the premium for factories with up to 300 workers amounts to 2000 marks and reaches 12,000 marks in the case of factories with between 1001 and 2000 workers. In category 2, the premium is 3000 marks for factories of up to 300 workers and rises to 40,000 marks for factories employing between 4001 and 5000 workers. In category 1, the winning factory, in the case of factories employing up to 300 workers, receives 4,000 marks and this sum rises to 100,000 marks in the case of factories employing over 8000 people.

The winning factories in the emulation contest groups of the individual ministries or state secretariats receive the banner of the ministry or state secretariat and of the trade union industrial group, together with a monetary bonus amounting to 50 per cent of the sum quoted in the previous paragraph.

In the emulation contests of district industry, the winning factory receives the banner of the council, a diploma from the county council and the district council of the Free German Trade Union Federation together with a monetary bonus which also amounts to 50 per cent of the bonus detailed above.

The bonuses are paid to the winning factory and the factory itself uses at least 70 per cent to pay individual bonuses and the remainder to improve the cultural and social care given to the workers. The bonuses are tax free.

Award for special performance

Work brigades which have taken voluntary pledges to improve quality and which fulfill these pledges for three consecutive months receive the title of honour "Brigade of Outstanding Quality", together with a diploma from the works' directorship and the factory trade union council and a monetary bonus from the directors funds. The bonus is fixed in accordance with the achievement of the brigade and averages up to 150 marks per brigade member.

If the brigade fulfills its pledge for six consecutive months, it receives from the Ministry or the County Council the title of honour "Brigade of the Best Quality", a joint diploma from

the state administration and the trade union and a bonus averaging 300 marks for each brigade member. These bonuses too are tax free.

The title "Brigade of Collective Activist Work" is awarded to brigades which fulfill their plan in all its parts: overfulfill their production plan monthly and simultaneously improve labour organisation, maintain all labour safety and technical security regulations, introduce new progressive labour methods and turn out high quality products with a greater reduction in costs than planned. Such brigades receive a diploma and a bonus amounting to a maximum of 750 marks for each brigade member.

Trade and supply in the German Democratic Republic

I. The goods available

1. What can you buy in the shops of the German Democratic Republic?

There is a great variety of goods available in the German Democratic Republic, contrary to the opinion of many people in some Western countries. Naturally all those goods which were made in this area previously are available again to-day, like the well known products of the fine mechanical and optical industries of Thuringia and Saxony, textiles from the central German industrial area, jewelry and toys, furs and printed material from Leipzig and cars and motorcycles from Saxony and Eisenach. At New Year 1954 the big state owned store on the Alexanderplatz in Berlin was offering 18,000 different varieties of goods for sale. The quality of the goods produced under the well known trade marks such as "Contax", "Exacta", "Thiel", "Glashütte", "Agfa" etc. is unchanged and in many cases has even been improved.

The shops of the German Democratic Republic offer manufactured goods and foodstuffs from all parts of the world. Goods available in the shops include for instance:

from the Soviet Union: butter, meat, edible oils, lard, canned fish, tea, cocoa, wine, champaign, cognac, cigarettes, wool and cotton;

from China: silk, wool, feathers, tea, rice, butter, meat, edible oils, lard, fruit, tobacco, peanuts and walnuts;

from Hungary: wine, butter, rice, canned meat, salami, game and poultry, meat, lard, fruit, grapes, cotton cloth, leather goods, sports goods, shoes, cigarettes, folk art blouses;

from Bulgaria: rice, fruit, cigarettes, grapes, wine, silk cloth;

from Poland: game and poultry, canned meat, eggs, canned fish, wool cloth and Xmas trees;

from Czechoslovakia: canned meat, fruit, Pilsen beer, shoes, wool cloth, leather goods, motorcycles, gramophone records, sports articles and Xmas trees;

from Rumania: game and poultry, canned fish, canned meat, salami, meat, fruit, wine, grapes, shoes, leather goods and Xmas trees;

from Britain: fish, canned fish, cloth;

from France: fresh fruit, coffee, cheese, seed potatoes and new potatoes, cocoa, wine, cloth, spices, edible oils, chemicals and fine wood;

from the United States: Kentucky tobacco, animal hair, furs, coffee;

from Sweden: fish, canned fish, butter, cheese, cocoabutter, brown beans, razor blades, wool, shoes, sports articles, files, saw blades and breeding animals;

from Italy: fruit, cheese, potatoes, wine, tropical fruits, cloth;

from Switzerland: butter, fresh fruit, vegetables, tobacco, watches, razor blades, wool, silk, thread, sewing machine needles.

The list could be much extended with articles imported from the Scandinavian countries, Austria, Belgium, Holland, Finland, Greece, New Zealand, Australia, Dutch Guyana, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, the Philippines, Canada and other countries.

All these goods are available in the German Democratic Republic, although most of them are not yet available in sufficient quantity to meet the demand and some of them are still offered at comparatively high prices.

It is necessary to emphasize here that the working people of the German Democratic Republic prefer to build up their economy by their own efforts and without getting into debt to foreign capitalists. This entails that the size of the imports is determined solely by the volume of production available for export in the economy of the German Democratic Republic. It would not be in the interest of the German people to accept such foreign credits as those extended by the American Marshall Plan, which open the way to control by foreign financial capital and an uncontrollable indebtedness of the economy, such as can be seen in West Germany. (More details on the foreign trade of the German Democratic Republic can be found in the chapter "The Foreign Policy of the German Democratic Republic".)

2. What is the quality of the goods turned out in the German Democratic Republic?

Mostly very good and it is improving every year. This is shown clearly by the continually increasing international importance of the Leipzig trade fair. Here are the opinions of various foreign and West German merchants and economists

and of foreign newspapers on the Leipzig fair in 1953 and 1954.

The director of a Milan firm stated that the German Democratic Republic had reached world quality in the machine tool industry and was leading world quality in certain technical innovations. A representative of the "London Export Corporation" also emphasized that the machine tool industry in the German Democratic Republic could now be grouped together with the leading countries such as France, West Germany, and Britain and that in the field of electro-technics the Republic was in the lead. This opinion was shared by a merchant from Toronto, Canada.

A business journalist from Munich in West Germany stated that he had been astonished by the quality and the subject matter of the books shown in Leipzig. A member of the Federation of British Industries was extremely impressed by the standard of the textile machinery of the German Democratic Republic and stated that certain types were certainly the best textile machines in the world.

The director of an Indonesian import firm in Djakarta praised the good quality and cheapness of the cameras and films and expressed his pleasure at the good choice and the quality of the costume jewelry.

These opinions from international merchants were underlined by the great interest and the willingness to purchase shown by people from all parts of the world. West German buyers were particularly interested in the "Erika" and "Elite" portable typewriters and the reflex cameras.

On January 15th 1954 Deputy Minister General Hassan F. Ragab, chief of an Egyptian trade delegation which visited the German Democratic Republic stated:

"It is no secret to say that we had been told that the number of workers employed at Zeiss Jena had decreased and that things were not running as smoothly there as they used to. We were thus very surprised to find that actually four times as many workers are now employed at Zeiss Jena as in previous times and that production has increased sixfold. We were still more surprised by the precision of the work done there."

It is necessary, too, to refer to certain goods produced in the German Democratic Republic which are known throughout the world for their extremely high quality and precision and some of which are produced nowhere else: They include the following:

the Zeiss Planetarium, produced only by the Zeiss Works in Jena; the Zeiss Ikon slow motion shutter, which can make up to 18,000 pictures per second;

the micro-thermostat;

the "Planeta" offset printing machine, which is only produced, apart from the German Democratic Republic, in the USA and West Germany, but not in the same high quality;

bookbinding machinery;

jig drills;

"the Glass Man", an anatomical model.

At the beginning of 1954 the German Democratic Republic exported the biggest plate cold sheet shears in the world with a length of 27 metres and a weight of nearly 150 tons. This machine cuts without difficulty sheet metal up to 35 millimetres in thickness.

Here are some further opinions about the 1954 Leipzig fair: The "Journal de Genève", Switzerland, wrote on September 21st 1954: "It is necessary to note that this is the first time since the war that the Leipzig fair was a great, a very great success, not only because of the very many and very important foreign participants but because it was possible to see that in the past two years East German industry has made such progress that it must be reckoned with once again."

Emrys Hughes, British Member of Parliament, stated: "It was impossible to go through the Leipzig Fair without admiring the great creative strength of men and the wonderful things which the human race is capable of manufacturing. International trade helps us forward. The more we trade with each other the less we can war against each other. The world is hungry for foodstuffs and consumer goods. The more successful our international fairs are, the sooner we shall reach a higher standard of living and a higher standard of civilisation."

The West German "Tagesblatt," Dortmund, reported in an article: "There are many fairs in the world and many in Germany too, but this 1954 Leipzig Fair at the traditional meeting place between East and West is unique both in construction and size and above all in its international variety of exhibitors and buyers."

The chief of the Fair delegation of the West German Lanz works, Director Hoppe, stated: "The Leipzig Fair has made a considerable contribution to improving the contact between the greatest West German agricultural machine works and the Peoples Democracies. A start has now been made and

the road to further understanding can now be considerably 'speeded up, if we come closer to each other economically, complement each other and remove misunderstandings."

3. Are West German goods available in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes, although the exchange of goods with West Germany, known as interzonal trade, is not able to develop fully owing to the restrictions and difficulties ordered by the Americans and put into effect by the West German politicians.

West Germany supplies fresh and salted fish and canned fish, steel goods from Solingen (knives, scissors, razor blades etc.) wine, almonds, nuts, tropical fruits, cocoabutter, coffee, men's, women's and children's shoes, leather goods, cottonyarn, wool and dyes for the textile industry, drugs for the medical industry, certain metals and metal goods, watches, ball and roller bearings, electrodes, medical apparatus and instruments, coke, superphosphates, special types of paper, spices, tobacco, breeding animals, dyes, paints, rubber goods, caustic soda, sulphuric acid, folk art, ceramics etc.

The government of the German Democratic Republic has frequently offered to increase considerably the imports of these goods but all-German negotiations to ease and extend interzonal trade have been prevented or made more difficult by the West German authorities.

4. Are people in the German Democratic Republic satisfied with the variety of goods offered?

No. There are still various shortages which are publicly criticized by the population and in the press. The variety and the quality of various categories of goods still leave something to be desired. The partitioning of Germany and the economic boycott ordered by the Americans play an important part here. As a result there are a number of goods which cannot be offered in sufficient quantities in the German Democratic Republic, such as certain drugs, bath-tubs (as the result of the lack of certain metals) special types of scissors and knives, hard coal, spare parts for cars, etc. Other goods still in short supply include imports from the capitalist countries and their colonies such as genuine Virginia cigarettes, Viennese knitted goods, British textiles, Algerian cotton.

Apart from these difficulties there are also certain aspects of the production of the German Democratic Republic with which purchasers are still unsatisfied. These difficulties are being steadily overcome as the result of public criticism and

they will be conquered by responsible work in the branches of industry and trade responsible.

The choice of models offered by the shoe industry is too small. Although the shoes are hard wearing and of good quality, there are still too few good looking shoes and there is too little variety in the various sizes of children shoes.

Men's ready-to-wear clothing in the cheapest varieties is still of not very good quality.

Women's ready-to-wear clothing shows too little differentiation, particularly in sports costumes.

Dull and poor quality packing is particularly criticized. Although the necessary raw materials are available, cellophane is not used very widely for packing such goods as macaroni, coffee, etc. In capitalist states on the other hand even goods of inferior quality are often offered for sale in tasteful and attractive packages.

The criticisms expressed above are amongst those most often made by the population. There are various explanations for these shortcomings, above all the fact that the requirements of our working people are growing more quickly than the means of production. This is a contradiction which helps to drive forward our development and the unbroken increase in production steadily tends towards a solution of this contradiction. A further reason for these shortcomings may be found in the fact that there are still officials in industry and trade who do not pay enough regard to criticisms from the population and who do not devote enough attention to improving the quality of the goods they offer. The emulation movement in industry and trade, however, and the public criticism which often takes sharp forms, are leading to the removal of these shortcomings. At a meeting of the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic on December 12th 1953, Bruno Leuschner, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, declared: "What is important is not simply the production of consumer goods but the production of fine goods which meet the growing needs of the population and of a higher standard of living. We do not need, for instance, simply more foodstuffs and textiles but better and more varied goods, and better packaged goods. The carrying out of the economic plan for 1954 must be closely connected with such tasks as the production of dignified and well made goods of the best quality and in modern styles, as well as the production of the most modern household equipment and real innovations."

In the middle of December 1953 the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic issued a "Decree on the Expansion and

Improvement of the Production of Consumer Goods for the Population," which followed the lines of this statement. The working people went to work with great enthusiasm in carrying out this decree which laid down the details of the necessary developments.

II. Prices

1. Is there a unified price system in the German Democratic Republic?

No. At the time of writing, 1954, there is not a unified single price system in the German Democratic Republic. The goods and prices may be classified in the following three groups:

1. Foodstuffs and industrial products produced in the German Democratic Republic in sufficient quantities and mainly without imported raw materials. The prices of these goods do not vary in any great degree from the pre-war prices. These goods are available in all shops of the state trading organisation (HO), the cooperative stores and private retail shops (for prices see the answer to the question "How high are prices in the German Democratic Republic?").
2. Industrial goods and foodstuffs which at present can only be manufactured in small quantities and which mainly depend upon imports. These goods are also available in all retail shops with the exception of those goods of specially high quality, which are only sold by the State Trading Organisation in order that their sale can be properly controlled to ensure that they do not flow into improper channels. There is one price level for these goods but this price in some cases is higher than the pre-war price.
3. Rationed foodstuffs. The goods still rationed in the German Democratic Republic are meat, fat, sugar, eggs, milk. The rationed foodstuffs are sold in cooperative stores and private retail shops on ration cards at normal prices, that is to say approximately the pre-war prices. These foodstuffs are also available off the ration in unlimited quantities at higher prices in the shops of the State Trading Organisation.

2. What is the size of the food rations?

Rations for meat, fat and sugar are fixed at different levels for all inhabitants of the German Democratic Republic in accordance with their work. Workers engaged in heavy work receive for instance higher rations than people engaged in light

work or doing no work. The self-suppliers (peasants) receive only a sugar ration.

In judging the rations laid down in the following statistics it must be remembered that the majority of the population receive some form of supplementary rations and that the canteen meals in factories and offices are supplied without ration cards and at very reduced prices. In hospitals, pensioners homes, nursery schools etc. additional food is also granted.

In the German Democratic Republic the following ration cards are issued monthly (the quantities are quoted in grammes: 453 grammes equal 1 lb).

Persons who are not working such as pensioners, and housewives and the majority of office and shop workers receive the basic ration card:

1350 g. meat	900 g. fat	1200 g. sugar
--------------	------------	---------------

Miners working underground and foundry workers in the same category receive:

ration card G—A

2550 g. meat	1800 g. fat	1800 g. sugar
--------------	-------------	---------------

Miners working at the pit head, very heavy workers in foundry and production factories, workers doing work particularly dangerous to health, members of the intelligentsia with individual contracts receive:

ration card G—B

1950 g. meat	1650 g. fat	1800 g. sugar
--------------	-------------	---------------

Workers doing heavy work and work dangerous to health, teachers, doctors in public service, members of the technical intelligentsia, students, trade students and officials in particularly responsible positions receive:

ration card G—C

1950 g. meat	1450 g. fat	1800 g. sugar
--------------	-------------	---------------

Craftsmen, industrial workers of the general category and officials in responsible positions receive:

ration card G—D

1950 g. meat	1300 g. fat	1500 g. sugar
--------------	-------------	---------------

People who normally could only claim the basic ration card but who work in factories providing canteen meals receive:

ration card G—E

1450 g. meat	930 g. fat	1350 g. sugar
--------------	------------	---------------

Children up to the age of five receive:

ration card K 0—5

900 g. meat	900 g. butter	1600 g. sugar
		15 litres milk

Children from five to nine receive:

ration card K 5—9

900 g. meat	900 g. butter	1600 g. sugar
		7.5 litres milk

Children from nine to fifteen receive:

ration card K 9—15

1050 g. meat	1050 g. fat	1600 g. sugar
		7.5 litres skim milk

Ration cards in the democratic sector of Berlin are not so highly differentiated. The following ration cards are issued in Berlin in accordance with comparable activities:

<i>ration card</i>	<i>meat</i>	<i>fat</i>	<i>sugar</i>	<i>milk</i>
Basic ration card	1950 g.	1350 g.	1500 g.	—
G A	3550 g.	1600 g. (butter)	1800 g.	—
G—B	2700 g.	1600 g.	1800 g.	—
IV A (children from 1 to 6 years)	900 g.	900 g. (butter)	1600 g.	15 litres
(or the same quantity of sugar)				
IV B (6 to 9 years)	1200 g.	1350 g. (butter)	1600 g.	7.5 litres
IV C (9 to 15 years)	1650 g.	1350 g.	1650 g.	3 litres

Children up to 1 year receive 22.5 litres of milk.

In addition to the ordinary ration cards there are also various additional cards for diabetics, expectant and nursing mothers (see chapter "Concerning Women"), workers who need particularly large quantities of milk and so on. In so far as the supply of butter is not laid down above, the fat ration card is met, according to the economic position, with butter, margarine or other fats. The minimum quantity of butter issued, however, is not less than 300 grammes for the lowest ration

cards. Eggs are issued on meat ration cards at the rate of 1 egg for 50 grammes meat ration.

3. Why are the rations not issued equally to all members of the population?

The present rationing system ensures that so long as goods are not available in unlimited quantities, they shall be distributed justly, that is to say in accordance with the performance of the individual. In West Germany a sort of camouflaged rationing is enforced by the steadily rising prices but in the German Democratic Republic the rationing system guarantees the necessary food for everybody at low prices.

4. Why are additional food supplies not used to raise the rations instead of being sold off the ration in the shops of the state Trading Organisation?

The quantities available would not be sufficient to meet fully all requirements. In addition no inhabitant of the German Democratic Republic would be able to use his earnings to buy a little something extra, and black market activities would be favoured. The price policy of the German Democratic Republic is directed towards a steady reduction of the prices in the State stores until the rationing system can be finally abolished.

5. When will the rationing system be abolished?

Prices in the shops of the State Trading Organisation have hitherto been reduced sixteen times. Further price reductions will take place in future and when as a result of the increasing labour productivity and the expansion of foreign trade the foodstuffs which are still in short supply are all available in sufficient quantity, the rationing system will be abolished.

6. How high are prices in the German Democratic Republic?

<i>Unrationed foodstuffs</i>	GDR	West Germany
Potatoes (per kilogramme)	0.11 marks	0.19 marks
Bread	0.34	0.70

Tropical fruit and various other foodstuffs imported from overseas are still relatively very dear. A kilogramme of oranges costs 4 marks, a kilogramme of lemons costs 5 marks, a kilogramme of rice costs 3.60 marks and a kilogramme of coffee costs 80 marks.

<i>Rationed foodstuffs</i>		GDR	West Germany
	ration price	off the ration price	
	(kilogramme)	(kilogramme)	(kilo)
Butter	4.20 marks	20.— marks	6.42 marks
Margarine	2.30 „	3.60 to 4.40 marks	1.46 to 2.04 marks
Bacon	2.65 „	5.80 marks	4.57 „
Sugar	1.12 „	2.80 to 3 marks	1.36 „
Beef	3.30 „	10.80 marks	4.20 „
Pork	2.85 „	11.20 „	4.60 „
Sausage, average	3.80 „	13.— „	6.— „
Milk (litre)	0.26 to 0.32 marks	1.12 „	0.39 „
Eggs (each)	0.13 to 0.15 „	0.45 „	0.19 „

Tobacco and Beverages (all unrationed)

Tobacco (50 g.) 0.60 to 3.75 marks
 Cigarettes (each) 0.08, 0.10, 0.16, 0.20, 0.24 marks
 Cigars (each) 0.08 to 0.80 marks
 Cigars, special quality, (each 1.10 to 1.80 marks
 Beer (12 per cent) 0.40 marks per $\frac{1}{4}$ litre glass
 Porter (18 per cent) 1.08 marks per $\frac{1}{3}$ litre bottle
 China tea 25 marks per kilogramme.

Manufactured goods

Suiting, worsted-cellulose, 140 cm. width	12.40 marks p. metre
Dress material of worsted-cellulose, 130 cm. width	8.10 marks p. metre
Overcoating, carded yarn - cellulose, 140 cm. width	14.90 marks p. metre
Bed Linen	11.— marks p. metre
Dress material of artificial silk, 80 cm. width	14.— marks p. metre
Cotton men's pants	9.— marks each
Ladies' underwear, 2-part, set, of mixed cellulose	6.80 marks each

Man's socks, perlon reinforced . . .		3.30	marks
			p. pair
Man's socks, artificial silk		4.40	marks
			p. pair
Woman's socks, perlon mixture . . .		3.—	marks
			p. pair
Woman's stockings, artificial silk .		3.11	marks
			p. pair
Woman's stockings, monofil, second grade	16.70 to	18.—	marks
			p. pair
Woman's stockings, monofil, first grade	24.— to	25.50	marks
			p. pair
Man's suit of worsted-cellulose . .		106.—	marks
Man's trousers of carded yarn- cellulose		30.30	„
Woman's wintercoat, carded yarn- cellulose		98.—	„
Shirt, cotton		24.—	„
Overalls, cotton		28.—	„
Woman's dress, artificial silk . . .		76.—	„
Woman's shoes (pumps)	45.— to	65.—	„
			p. pair
Woman's sport shoes (Suede) . . .		65.—	marks
			p. pair
Woman's bootees (pig skin)	32.— to	42.—	marks
			p. pair
Womans pumps of Velveton		16.55	marks
			p. pair
Womans shoes (pigskin)	17.— to	36.—	marks
			p. pair
Man's shoes (Czechoslovak import)	78.— to	120.—	marks
			p. pair
Children's shoes, small sizes . . .		9.70	marks
			p. pair
Boy's boots, large sizes		50.—	marks
			p. pair
Boxin shoes	14.50 to	20.—	marks
			p. pair
Frying pan, steel, 26 cm. diameter		6.19	marks
Enamelled saucepan with lid, 24 centimeter diameter		7.70	„
Coffee service, earthenware, six parts		12.50	„
Plate, china		1.19	„

Gas stove, three rings and oven		195.—	marks
Electric cooker, one ring, china	14.— to	28.—	"
Emersion heater		11.50	"
Hair dryer		37.50	"
Electric iron		15.—	"
Vacuum cleaner	112.— to	150.—	"
Men's bicycle, average		250.—	"
Bicycle tyre	10.50 to	13.50	"
Bicycle inner tube		3.—	"
Radio, medium "Rennsteig"	198.— to	400.—	"
Radio, Super	495.— to	920.—	"
Radio, small "Kolibri II"		50.—	"
Television receiver	1300.— to	1450.—	"
"Rolleiflex" camera	190.— to	200.—	"
"Perfecta" camera (6×6)		25.50	"
"Exacta-Varex" camera with Zeiss-Tessar lens		1350.—	"
Rollfilm (6×9)		1.25	"
"Thiel" wrist watch		22.50	"
"Thiel" pocket watch		8.—	"
Alarm clock		12.50	"
"Glashütte" man's wrist watch		115.—	"
Portable typewriter	276.— to	400.—	"
Accordeon, 60 basses		248.—	"
Toilet soap, 100 g.		0.60	"
Shaving soap		1.20	"
Floor wax		1.05	"
"Fewa" washing powder, 100 g.		0.85	"
Matches, box		0.10	"
Wall paper, roll	1.15 to	1.35	"

7. Can you buy on the instalment plan?

Yes, furniture, motorcycles and other goods of a long-lasting nature can be purchased by instalments. Every form of speculation is excluded by the fact that loans for instalment purchases are extended by the Municipal Savings Banks, that is to say by the state. The purchaser concludes an agreement with the Savings Bank covering a loan for one particular purchase. The purchaser pledges himself to save one-quarter of the purchase price in monthly instalments, on which the Savings Bank pays interest of 3 %. The remainder of the purchase sum is advanced by the Savings Bank as a loan at 6 % interest. This loan can be paid back over a period of two years, in monthly instalments based upon the rate of savings. In cases of need the Savings Bank can postpone the payment of instalments.

As soon as this agreement has been concluded the entire sum is advanced by the bank. This prevents the purchaser from becoming in any way dependent upon the seller, and there is no possibility that the seller can reclaim the goods if the instalments should not be paid.

8. What does lunch in a restaurant cost?

In private restaurants meals may be bought on ration cards at the usual ration prices.

In the HO restaurants (restaurants run by the State Trading Organisation) the variety offered is greater and prices are fixed in accordance with the off-the-ration prices for meat and fat. The cheapest dishes cost between 1 marks and 1.50 marks. Grills cost from 2 to 7 marks and a full meal with soup and sweet may be obtained in a HO restaurant for between 3.50 marks and 10 marks. There is no charge for service in these restaurants. On the opposite page you will see a part of the menu of the "Berolina Cellar", a very popular Berlin HO restaurant of the medium price category.

9. How high are the rents?

Rents have been fixed at the 1936 level, so that the rent of a house or apartment has not been raised since that year unless building improvements have been carried out. The rent is calculated on a basis of the entire area of the apartment inside the front door. Most new building development is being done on the basis of interest-free capital provided by the state. According to the category, the monthly rents of these new flats vary between 0.60 and 0.90 marks per square metre and in some cases are even lower. This means that the rents in the newly built nationally owned apartments are lower than the average rents in older houses.

The average rents in the apartment houses so far constructed in StalinStadt are 0.60 marks per square metre. Many newly built blocks in Karl-Marx-Stadt, Leipzig, Magdeburg and elsewhere have rents of 0.65 marks per square metre. In the fine new apartment houses built on the Stalinallee in Berlin, the rents are 0.95 marks per square metre, but this includes lift, refuse chute, central heating and constant warm water.

No "key money" or other form of building contribution is levied on persons moving into the newly built apartments constructed with state capital. Building contributions which are not returnable or which must be deposited before building begins are prohibited in the German Democratic Republic.

Oktober 19th 1954

Specially recommended to-day:

(weight of meat or
fish used in dish)

Fish

Fish mayonnaise, garnished	200 g.	1.65 marks
Fried fish filet, piquant sauce and potatoes	200 g.	2.90 "
Tench, fresh with horseradish sauce, butter and potatoes	300 g.	3.75 "

Game and poultry

Venison steak in cream with runner beans and mashed potatoes	150 g.	6.75 "
Venison joint in cream with mashed potatoes and compot	200 g.	6.95 "
Young roast goose with red cabbage, potatoes and apple sauce	300 g.	6.85 "
Young roast duck with red cabbage and potatoes	300 g.	6.95 "

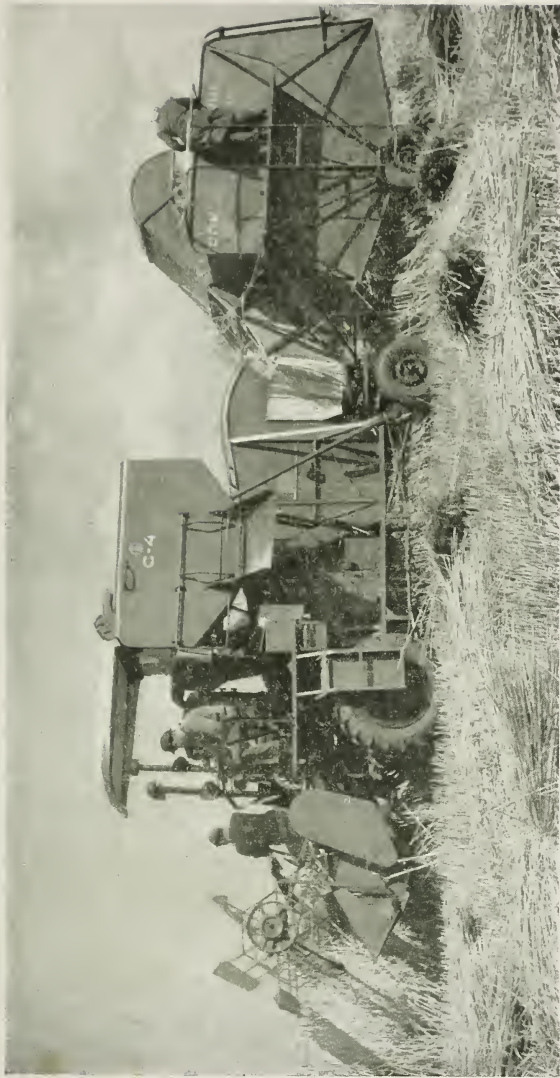
Special Berolina Cellar Dishes

Mecklenburg beefsteak with red cabbage and fried potatoes	100 g.	2.95 "
Fried head of veal, piquant sauce and potato salad	300 g.	3.00 "

Dishes of the Day

Meat hash with potatoes and mixed salad	100 g.	2.35 "
Piquant pig's head salad with fried potatoes	150 g.	2.40 "
2 stuffed cabbage rolls with mashed potatoes	100 g.	2.95 "
Pork pie with red cabbage and potatoes ..	100 g.	2.95 "
Potato Omelette (2 eggs) with bacon	50 g.	3.05 "
Stewed pork kidney with mashed potatoes and mixed salad	150 g.	3.30 "
Vienna steak in cream with red cabbage and mashed potatoes	100 g.	3.30 "
Hungarian Paprika cutlet with macaroni ..	100 g.	3.35 "
Roast meat with potato dumplings and compot	150 g.	3.75 "
Salt pork with pease pudding, Sauerkraut and potatoes	150 g.	3.75 "
Stuffed veal breast with cauliflower and potatoes	150 g.	4.30 "
Preserved tongue in red wine with peas and mashed potatoes	100 g.	4.75 "
Smoked pork cutlet with fried eggs, fried potatoes and compot	150 g.	4.95 "

In case of difficulty or complaints please ask for the manager



*Soviet reaper-thresher at work, a common picture at harvest time in the
German Democratic Republic*



The new village of Freileben



*The club room of the "Kaethe Niederkirchner"
agricultural production cooperative in
Werder, Strausberg district*



*House of Culture of the machine and tractor station at
Trebus, Seelow district*

*Nursery school for peasant children at
Magdeburg-Friedensweiler*





*Beginners group for guitar players of the cultural group of
Schletta machine and tractor station*



Folk dance group of a village near Potsdam

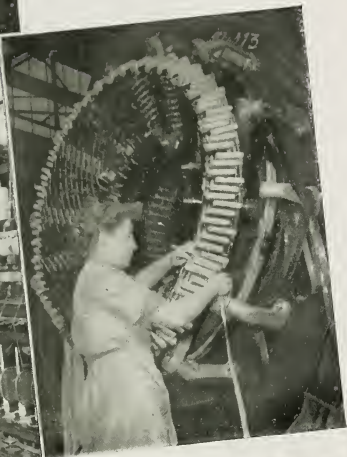


Top left: Frau Greta Kuckhoff, President of the German Notenbank

Centre left: Frau Schmidt, a spinner in die nationally-owned Adorf spinnig mill, Karl Marx Stadt district

Centre right: Berte Dierls, working in the nationally-owned "Hans Beimler" locomotive electric works in Hennigsdorf

Below: Helga Schuchowski, a tractor driver at Rehfelde machine and tractor station

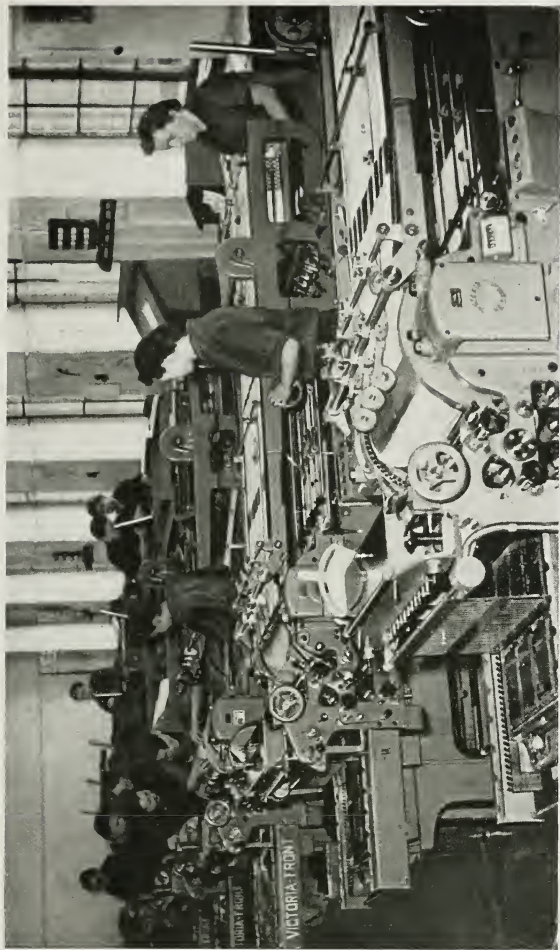




The nursery school of a Berlin factory

*The day nursery in the village of Crostwitz,
Kamenz district*





*Mechanical press room in the "Otto Grotewohl" apprentice combine,
Leipzig*



Young people rambling and camping

- a) Above: Young people from the democratic sector of Berlin and from West Berlin ramble together in Saxon Switzerland



- b) Below: Apprentices of a nationally-owned factory in a tent camp

Private house owners are however allowed to accept building contributions in the form of loans upon which interest is paid.

In West Germany on the other hand, according to figures issued by the Federal Statistical Office, the index of rents has risen from 100 in 1938 to 113 in 1953 for old apartments. It is now planned to abolish rent restrictions for old apartments, which will entail a further increase of between at least 40 and 60 per cent. The main new building is divided into the so-called "social building" with a basic rent of 1.10 marks per square metre, the "higher social building" with rents of 1.40 marks per square metre and free building with rents of between 1.60 and 2 marks per square metre and sometimes even more. In addition it is usual to demand a building contribution of between 60 and 100 marks per square metre. In the case of an average 2-room apartment of 50 square metres, this amounts to between 3000 and 5000 marks.

10. How is housing allotted in the German Democratic Republic?

In contrast to West Germany it is impossible in the German Democratic Republic that the housing shortage due to the war should be exploited by speculators. The allotment of living space is governed by the urgency and need of the applicant. Workers in nationally owned factories make their application to the Labour Department in their factory and other applicants apply to the housing department of the local authorities. All applicants are then arranged in three categories, defined by the Central Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation, according to the degree of urgency. The decision on the category is taken with the help of the Workers Control Commission for Building and Housing. This guarantees that the accommodation available is justly allotted. Workers such as activists and those who play a particularly active part in the work of reconstruction are naturally given preference in the allotment of housing.

11. Can people be evicted for rent debt?

No.

12. Can a worker build his house himself?

Yes. On March 4th 1954 the government allotted a sum of 100 million marks for use in 1954 in individual house building, additional to the 764 million marks which had been allotted

for nationally owned housing. Anybody who wants to build his own house must provide 25 per cent of the building costs, either in cash or in work he does himself on the building. The rest of the sum is provided as an interest-free loan which has to be paid back in instalments amounting to between 2 per cent and 3.5 per cent of the building costs. In the preliminary work the local authorities and factories give their full assistance. Building land can be provided free of all charge from nationally owned property for the house. For the first ten years after the completion of the building no land tax is levied. These individual homes, which are the personal property of the worker or office worker, can be sold and inherited.

When workers and office workers join together in a building cooperative, the conditions are even more favourable and the members only have to provide 20 per cent of the building costs. Full details on the foundation and membership, administration etc. of a workers building cooperative can be seen from the pattern statute printed in the Legislative Journal of the German Democratic Republic (No. 27/1954, page 256).

Workers building cooperatives have become very popular amongst the workers. In June 1954 there was a total of 127 such cooperatives.

13. What do heat and light cost?

Prices for domestic coal

In the German Democratic Republic (average)

from railway station . . .	1.19 marks per 50 kilogrammes
from coal yard	1.69 " " 50 "
delivered	1.89 " " 50 "

In West Germany

delivered	3.40 marks per 50 kilogrammes
---------------------	-------------------------------

Gas Prices

In the German Democratic Republic

for the first 200 cubic metres per month . . .	0.16 marks per cubic metre
for each further cubic metre	0.08 " " " "

In West Germany

for each cubic metre . .	0.26 to 0.35 marks
--------------------------	--------------------

Electricity Prices

In the German Democratic Republic

per kilowatt hour . . . 0.08 marks
plus basic price per
room over 8 square
metres 0.50 marks

In West Germany

per kilowatt hour . . . 0.11 to 0.15 marks
plus basic price per
room 1.— mark

The people of the German Democratic Republic pay less for various important necessities than the West German population, for instance for rent, electricity, gas, domestic coal, bread and potatoes. If the people of the German Democratic Republic had to pay at West German prices for the electricity, gas and domestic coal, which they were planned to consume in 1954, they would have had the following additional expenses:

Electricity	288 million marks		
Gas	184	"	"
Domestic Coal	193	"	"

14. What do tram and railway fares cost?

A tram ride, according to the size of the town, costs either 0.15 marks or 0.20 marks.

Railway fares are based upon a tariff of 8 pfennig per kilometre. In West Germany under the new zonal tariff system, the average is 6.8 pfennigs per kilometre. Workers tickets, however, in the German Democratic Republic are considerably cheaper; a worker's return ticket has a reduction of 75 per cent, that is to say it costs 2 pfennigs per kilometre compared to 3.4 pfennigs per kilometre in West Germany, where the reduction is only 50 per cent. Workers weekly tickets in West Germany are 50 per cent more expensive than in the German Democratic Republic. In addition, each member of the Free German Trade Union Federation, that is to say practically the entire working population, receives a reduction of one third upon two journeys every year, so that one can then travel for 5.3 pfennigs per kilometre. In addition, trips to the holiday homes of the trade unions also have a reduction of one third.

III. What is the consumption per head of the most important foodstuffs

To compare properly the living standard of the population, it is necessary to look at consumption per head of the population in the German Democratic Republic and in West Germany. Here are some of these figures on the basis of official statistics. The West German figures are quoted from the „Statistical Monthly Report of the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forests”, November 1953, page 52. The figures given are for the year 1953 and all weights are given in kilogrammes:

	German Democratic Republic	West Germany
Flour, all types	120.3	96.5
Potatoes	197.3	174.0
Meat and meat products .	41.3	41.0
Sugar and sugar products .	31.0	23.7
Butter	9.4	6.1
Animal fats	5.5	6.0
Fish and fish products . .	6.9	11.7

This table shows that per head of the population people in the German Democratic Republic were consuming considerably more bread, potatoes, sugar and butter than in West Germany and that on the other hand the consumption of fish and animal fats was rather lower in the German Democratic Republic.

The West German average figures give, however, an incorrect picture of the actual situation of the working people, since this is an average between two completely differently supplied sections of the population, the rich and the poor. In actual practice, a very high proportion of consumption falls upon the well-to-do. Fritz Heine, a member of the Central Board of the West German Social Democratic Party, stated on August 3rd 1953 that about 10 million inhabitants of West Germany have an income which lies below the existence minimum. Of these, according to the official statistics, one and a half million are unemployed and must exist upon their very sparse unemployment assistance.

How the peasants live in the German Democratic Republic

The individual peasant

1. Does the individual peasant own his land?

Yes. Every peasant, whether an individual peasant or peasant cooperator, owns his land.

The principle "the land should belong to those who till it", was put into effect after 1945 in the territory which to-day forms the German Democratic Republic. The junkers and the big estate owners had their land expropriated without compensation and it was given to the peasants. All estates of over 100 hectares (about 250 acres) and all land belonging to war criminals was distributed and as a result 210,276 families of resettlers, agricultural labourers and so on, received their own farms. In addition, about 350,000 peasants received additional land as a result of the land reform.

2. How is the land distributed in the German Democratic Republic?

Individual peasants own most land in the German Democratic Republic. There has been a basic change in the distribution of land as compared to West Germany and the change is shown vividly in the following table:

Agricultural land in 1953

	GDR (per cent)	West Germany (per cent)
Nationally owned estates	4	—
Agricultural production cooperatives	12	—
In the administration of various institutions and provisionally in state custodianship	14	—
Small peasants (0.5 to 5 hectares) . .	14	10.9
Middle peasants (5 to 20 hectares) .	46	30.9
Big peasants (20 to 100 hectares) . .	10	30.4
Big estate owners (over 100 hectares)	—	27.8

These figures show that in the German Democratic Republic 30 per cent of the agricultural land falls in the socialist sector and 60 per cent is owned by working individual peasants, 46 per cent of it by middle peasants.

Peasants from West Germany who wish to move to the German Democratic Republic, because their existence is menaced in the West, receive land from the nationally administered areas and receive generous support in the form of credits, reduction of their deliveries etc.

3. Must individual peasants join production cooperatives?

Nobody may be forced to join a production cooperative. The first principle in forming a production cooperative is to ensure its absolutely voluntary nature. Members who have not joined voluntarily and who do not work in the community with full conviction are a hindrance rather than a help. All production cooperatives and the state are therefore decisively against every form of pressure. The first point in the statute of a typical production cooperative therefore reads as follows:

“Entrance in the production cooperative can only take place on a completely voluntary basis.”

Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht declared in this connection:

“I am convinced that it is necessary to emphasize the principle of the completely voluntary basis in organising such cooperatives and to emphasize the inadmissibility of using any form of pressure on peasants in this question.”

4. Can a peasant's property be expropriated?

The peasant's ownership of his land is constitutionally guaranteed. The democratic forces have not allotted the land to the peasants in order to take it away again.

5. Is the peasant instructed what crops he must plant?

Every peasant wants to plant the crops which the consumer needs, that is to say the crops which he can sell. The peasant thus has the same interests as the state, which plans the economy in order to coordinate the interests of the producers and the interests of the consumers.

Every year the peasant plans the crops which he wishes to plant. He gives this plan to the village mayor who forwards it through the District Council to the County Council. There the plans are coordinated with the needs of the consumers and the peasant receives planting instructions. Generally speaking there are few differences between the peasant's plan and the instructions which he receives. When there are

changes, the village mayor has the task of convincing the peasant of the necessity of changing his crop plan.

6. Can it happen that the peasant cannot sell his crop?

No. The economy of the German Democratic Republic is free of economic crises and unemployment, and the purchasing power of the population is continually increasing. There is therefore no difficulty in disposing of goods produced. The democratic world market, which stretches to the Pacific Ocean, is not influenced by outside orders on imports or exports which react to the disadvantage of the economically weaker sections.

In addition there are no speculators, or private cattle and corn merchants in the German Democratic Republic who can ruin the peasants.

The VEAB, the nationally owned collection and purchasing organisation, is bound to buy from every peasant as a delivery quota a fixed quantity of his products at legally stipulated prices. The delivery quota is thus guaranteed by the state. As a result of the generous support for agriculture given by the state, the peasants are able to increase their production steadily, so that they produce more than their delivery quota and the quantity which they need for their own consumption. The quantity which they produce over and above their delivery quota they can sell either through the nationally owned collection organisation or at free peasant markets directly to the housewives.

In addition, peasants can make delivery contracts with the cooperative stores, with the state trading organisation or with factory canteens. At the peasant markets and in their agreements with the state trading organisation, they can sell their products at prices regulated by supply and demand. Their sales to the nationally owned collection and purchasing organisation are at fixed prices, which are well above the price paid for their delivery quotas. The sale of this extra production at higher prices gives every peasant a reason to produce more. The peasant trading cooperatives support the peasants in the conclusion of sales contracts.

It will thus be seen that in the German Democratic Republic the peasant is sure of selling his products under all circumstances.

7. Who fixes the delivery quotas?

The delivery norms for the various sizes of peasant holdings are fixed by the government on the basis of the economic plan

after thorough discussions with the State Secretariat for Collection and Purchase, with peasant cooperators, working individual peasants and officials of the Association for Mutual Peasant Aid. From this it is clear that the size of the delivery quota is differentiated.

At the village level, local commissions of peasants divide up the delivery quota amongst the various farms. The village commission bases itself upon the total delivery quota for the village, which is fixed by the District Differentiation Commission on the basis of instructions from the County Council.

Thus the peasants themselves, working in these commissions, establish the delivery quota for each farm on the basis of the size of the farm, the quality of the land and other special factors. In this connection, the principle is used that the hard working peasant must not be penalized by receiving a delivery quota higher than a careless peasant.

For the great majority of the peasants there is no difficulty in fulfilling the delivery quota. If there is a crop failure owing to bad weather or other unforeseen circumstances, the delivery quota can be cancelled if the product stipulated can not be replaced by another.

8. How big is the delivery quota?

The delivery quota averages 60 per cent of total production.

Here are two examples from an average village.

The peasant Kurt Neubauer from Angern, near Tangerhütte, has a farm of 37.73 hectares of agricultural land with land of category 44. His delivery quota was fixed by the differentiation commission as follows:

Cattle (without pigs) 1270 kilogrammes, pigs 2465 kilogrammes, milk 18,616 kilogrammes (3.5 per cent fat), eggs 4229, cereal crops 19,815 kilogrammes, oil seeds 344 kilogrammes, potatoes 46,136 kilogrammes, sugar beets 25,750 kilogrammes.

Up to June 8th 1953 this peasant had fulfilled his egg quota; on July 30th 1953 he had fulfilled his pig quota; on October 25th 1953 his quota for other cattle; his milk quota on November 15th 1953; although the final date for the fulfilment of the quotas was in all cases December 31st 1953. At this time he had also fulfilled his quota for other products such as oilseeds. In one or two cases there were small quantities still owing, such as 90 kilogrammes in the case of the potato quota.

The peasant Hermann Köppe from the same village has a farm of 11.13 hectares and soil classification 40. The differentiation commission laid down his quota as follows:

cattle (without pigs) 341 kilogrammes; pigs 651 kilogrammes, milk 4463 kilogrammes, eggs 1099, cereal grains 3204 kilogrammes, oil seeds 45 kilogrammes, potatoes 8677 kilogrammes, sugar beets 10,300 kilogrammes.

Hermann Köppe had fulfilled his delivery quota for eggs on June 8th 1953; for pigs on April 15th 1953; for milk on October 15th 1953; for cattle without pigs on October 27th 1953. He also fulfilled the quota in other products, with a few exceptions where small quantities were still outstanding.

At the time of this investigation both peasants had not only fulfilled their quotas but had sold large quantities on the free market. Kurt Neubauer for instance had sold 2000 kilogrammes of milk and two pigs and Hermann Köppe had sold 14 pigs, a cow and two sheep.

9. What are the prices for agricultural products?

A difference must be made between the price for the delivery quota and the price on the free market. Prices for the delivery quota for instance for pigs average 1.44 marks per kilogramme, for cattle 1.02 marks per kilogramme, for milk 0.20 marks per kilogramme, for eggs 0.10 marks each, for potatoes 6.40 marks per hundred kilogrammes, for wheat 21.80 marks per 100 kilogrammes. The price for 50 kilogrammes of tobacco of the best quality is between 375 marks and 500 marks. Prices on the free market average 6 marks per kilo for pigs, 2.75 marks per kilo for cattle, 0.80 marks per kilo for milk and 0.40 marks each for eggs. The prices for potatoes average 200 per cent above the quota price and for wheat 50 per cent above the quota price. It is therefore necessary to take both price levels into account when calculating what the peasant earns by selling his products. The peasant Kurt Neubauer from Angern for instance received 3723.20 marks for the milk he sold on his quota and in addition 1600 marks for the 2000 kilogrammes of milk he sold on the free market. The peasant Hermann Köppe, who sold a particularly large quantity of pigs on the free market, earned by their sale 9240 marks in addition to the 937.40 marks for the pigs he sold on quota. It is therefore readily understood that each peasant tries to produce as much as possible for the free market since this increases his income.

10. How do the peasants get their fertilizer, twine, building materials and so on?

The peasant buys his fertilizer, his twine, his building materials, fuel, working clothing and so on through the Peasant

Trade Cooperative. The peasant cooperatives are a section of the big peasant organisation in the German Democratic Republic, the "Association for Mutual Peasant Aid". Details of this organisation are given on page 100.

The peasant trade cooperatives are continuously making efforts to improve the supplies offered.

11. What do agricultural supplies and tools cost?

The prices for agricultural supplies and tools, with the exception of fertilizers and fodder, are being constantly reduced. These price reductions are a result of reductions in the cost of production. Here are some examples of the prices of various supplies:

Wheat bran	13.60 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Rye bran	11.— marks per 100 kilogrammes
Sulphuric Ammoniac	18.45 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Superphosphates 16 p. c.	9.05 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Potash 40 per cent	9.30 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Lime 80 per cent	3.50 marks per 100 kilogrammes

For comparison here are some prices from West Germany (October 1954)

Wheat bran	23.— marks per 100 kilogrammes
Superphosphates 16 p. c.	11.88 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Potash 40 per cent	11.85 marks per 100 kilogrammes
Sulphuric Ammoniac	22.58 marks per 100 kilogrammes

12. What taxes must the peasant pay and how big are they?

The taxes payable by peasants have been repeatedly reduced in the past few years. Peasants in the German Democratic Republic pay to the State the following taxes: Income tax, turnover tax, property tax and land tax. Agricultural enterprises valued at less than 10,000 marks are exempt from property tax. The first 1,000 marks in an agricultural income of up to 6,000 marks are free of tax. Increased profits from sales on the free market are not assessed for tax purposes.

Here are examples of the taxes to be paid by two different sizes of farm. In both cases it is assumed that the owner is married and has one child.

5 hectare farm:

income tax	0.00 marks
turnover tax	23.62 marks
property tax	0.00 marks
land tax	120.00 marks
	<hr/>
	143.62 marks

15 hectare farm:

income tax	189.— marks
turnover tax	98.— marks
property tax	60.— marks
land tax	410.— marks
	<hr/>
	757.— marks

A comparison with the taxes paid by a peasant in West Germany shows the difference between a workers' and peasants' state and a state of monopoly capitalists and big landowners.

In West Germany under the same conditions, a peasant with a 5 hectare farm pays the following taxes:

income tax	39.— marks
emergency contribution for West Berlin . . .	11.82 marks
turnover tax	53.15 marks
land tax	160.— marks
	<hr/>
	263.97 marks

The West German peasant therefore pays 120.35 marks more tax than his East German colleague.

A West German peasant with a farm of 15 hectares pays:

income tax	765.— marks
emergency contribution for West Berlin . . .	54.30 marks
turnover tax	203.10 marks
land tax	560.— marks
	<hr/>
	1582.40 marks

The West German peasant therefore pays 825.40 marks more taxes than his East German colleague.

13. On what conditions can a peasant get credit?

A great variety of credits are available to the peasant. Short term credits are given for buying fertilizers and seed and for sowing and harvest work. For peasants with an arable area of up to 5 hectares a credit of up to 90 per cent of the annual delivery quota is granted by the Peasant Trade Cooperative. For farms of between five and twenty hectares a credit of up to 70 per cent of the annual delivery quota is given by the Peasant Trade Cooperative.

For farms over twenty hectares a credit of up to 50 per cent of the annual delivery quota is given by the German Peasant Bank.

In addition all peasants can obtain additional credits of up to 50 marks for buying young pigs, and of up to 40 marks for

fodder, per pig, if these pigs are destined for the delivery quota or if the peasant has concluded a contract with the nationally owned collection and purchasing organisation.

Every peasant also has the chance of obtaining long term credits from the German Peasant Bank. Long term credits are granted for instance for increasing the inventory and particularly for the purchase of breeding and work animals. These credits for peasants with farms of up to 5 hectares can amount to 70 per cent of the purchase price; for farms of between five and twenty hectares up to 60 per cent of the purchase price; for farms over twenty hectares up to 50 per cent of the purchase price.

In addition long term credits are granted for the overhauling of machines and installations, repairs to buildings and for ameliorations. These credits amount for farms of up to 20 hectares to 60 per cent of the estimated price; for farms over 20 hectares up to 50 per cent of the estimated price.

The interest payable on these credits varies between 3 and 5 per cent. The interest payable on short term credits for fertilizer, seeds, sowing and harvest work amounts to 5 per cent. The interest for long term credits such as the increase of inventory including life stock amounts to 4.5 per cent.

Short term credits must be repaid within one year. Long term credits are repayable over a five year term.

It will thus be seen that the credit terms are very favourable for all peasants, particularly for small and middle peasants, and for this reason more and more peasants are taking advantage of these credits from the state.

14. Can the peasant employ agricultural workers?

Every peasant can employ agricultural workers. There are no restrictions in this respect.

15. What rights has an agricultural worker?

The social and political situation of the agricultural worker, which was formerly considerably worse than that of the industrial worker, has been basically changed by the change in the social situation in the country side. The "Law for the Protection of Labour in Agriculture" (also known as the Agricultural Workers Protection Law) protects the rights of the agricultural workers.

The life of agricultural workers has improved decisively since this law went into effect. The owner or director of every agricultural undertaking is legally bound to conclude a

written labour contract, on the basis of the stipulations for wages and conditions, with every person who works in this undertaking for more than two weeks. This labour contract lays down all conditions of work such as the length of the working day, wages, holidays, accomodation, the supply of food and so on.

16. What wages does an agricultural worker receive?

The basis of pay is the 48 hour week with a daily working time of 8 hours. Over-time working is unavoidable in agriculture at certain times of the year but the over-time work in one year must not exceed 300 hours.

The hourly pay for an agricultural worker who is privately employed on light unskilled work is 0.50 marks, for a field driver 0.73 marks and for a tractor driver 0.85 marks. A 25 per cent addition must be paid for overtime. An additional 50 per cent is paid for Sunday work and an additional 100 per cent for work on legal holidays. In addition there are a number of special excess payments in the case of work dangerous to health, such as in spraying insecticides and for cattle tenders. Here is an example:

An agricultural worker with more than 3 years experience who feeds and tends two working animals and works ten and a half hours in a day receives the following pay (63 hours work during the week and two and a half hours on Sunday):

48 hours	at 0.73 marks =	34.04 marks
15 hours over-time	at 0.91 marks =	13.65 marks
2½ hours Sunday work	at 1.10 marks =	2.75 marks
6 days tending money	at 1.20 marks =	7.20 marks
1 day Sunday tending money	at 2.50 marks =	2.50 marks
gross earnings		60.14 marks

Persons employed in the nationally owned sector of agriculture earn more on the basis of the collective agreement. In a nationally owned estate for instance, agricultural workers doing light work receive on the basis of performance pay 0.80 marks or 0.86 marks per hour. Drivers receive 0.94 marks or 1.—marks and a tractorist receives 1.07 marks or 1.14 marks.

17. Do agricultural workers get holidays?

Every agricultural worker is guaranteed a holiday. After an uninterrupted working period of six months (for young people three months) the worker has a legal claim to a paid holiday of at least 12 working days per year. Agricultural wor-

kers who do heavy work or work dangerous to health receive 18 or 24 working days holiday. Young people between 14 and 16 receive 21 days annual holiday and young people between 16 and 18 receive 18 days. Persons who are not steadily employed receive one paid day of holiday for each 25 working days.

18. How do the agricultural workers live?

The agricultural workers protection law stipulates the accomodation to be given agricultural workers. An agricultural worker with a family concludes a special agreement with the farm owner or director on the grant of accomodation, stabling, and a vegetable garden of 625 square metres. This accomodation is not included in the wage. Unmarried workers can claim a furnished and heatable room.

If the agricultural worker receives accomodation and food from the farm, he pays 0.50 marks per day for accomodation and 1.50 marks per day for food. The living standard of agricultural workers on private farms is further improved by labour safety and other regulations, concluded between the owner and the trade union committee. The agreement between the agricultural workers and the owner in the case of the undertaking of Kurt Galles, at Blumberg near Potsdam, lays down that the workers should receive a medical inspection every three months and that a library for technical literature should be provided by the undertaking. Enterprises in the nationally owned sector of agriculture, such as nationally owned estates, forestry undertakings, market gardens, research and breeding stations etc. extend still more generous and extensive measures of this type. As in the nationally owned industry, the collective agreements lay down the measures to be taken.

19. Do agricultural workers receive payment in kind?

All employees and the members of their families can buy food at prices fixed for the peasants or the nationally owned estate by the nationally owned collection and purchasing organisations. The old form of payment in kind is therefore no longer existent. This prevents all form of concealment of the wage actually paid such as occurs when payment is made in kind. Every agricultural worker receives his wage in cash as laid down in the agreement. In addition he has the advantage of being able to buy his daily quantities of meat and fat at prices regulated as above.

Production cooperatives

1. Why have the peasants joined together in production cooperatives?

At a conference of the chairmen of production cooperatives the peasant Ernst Grossmann, chairman of the Merxleben production cooperative in Thuringia stated:

"We have joined together in order

1. to produce more and thus provide the entire population with more food,
2. to achieve a better standard of living for us working peasants by producing more,
3. to make our work more easy, to gain more free time and improve our life in every way."

In the production cooperatives the peasants are able to use the most modern technical methods and the experiences gained by progressive agrarian science. This results in not only bigger crops and more money but also in more free time. This is particularly true for the women. The peasant co-operators therefore have more time to improve their knowledge and to attend cultural performances.

Today there are 5103 agricultural production cooperatives in the German Democratic Republic. The 157,580 peasants and agricultural labourers who came together to form these cooperatives till jointly about 920,780 hectares of land.

2. Can people leave a production cooperative?

A peasant considers the situation very fully and only joins a production cooperative if he is fully convinced of the reasons for taking this important step. Thus the possibility of leaving does not play an important role.

However, the statutes of the production cooperatives deal with this possibility in various clauses. The section on membership, for instance, lays down in a typical statute.

"Anyone who wishes to leave the production cooperative must make written application. He can leave only after the completion of the harvest . . ."

The possibility is also mentioned in the section dealing with the use of the land which states:

"Persons who leave the production cooperative or who are excluded receive back their share of land of the same size and in comparable quality on the border of the cooperatively tilled land."

3. Do all production cooperatives take the same form?

In the German Democratic Republic there are three different forms of agricultural production cooperatives, known as types I, II und III.

Type I ist the simplest and most easily introduced form of agricultural production cooperative. The members contribute only their arable fields for collective cropping. Their gardens, meadows and woods, together with their entire stocks of animals, their machines and implements, remain the personal property of the member.

In Type II the members contribute their arable fields and also their draught animals, horses, tractors and other machines and instruments for collective use in the production cooperative. Members may retain one horse, one or two foals and a draught ox for their personal use. Breeding animals and domestic animals are also retained by the members.

Type III is the highest form of production cooperative. The members contribute their land together with meadows and woods, their draught animals and a part of their breeding and domestic animals together with their agricultural machines and implements to the production cooperative. In this type the cooperative economy extends to all branches of agricultural production.

4. Has the peasant cooperator no personal property?

In all three types of cooperatives the members, on decision of their general meetings, can retain as their personal property up to half a hectare of arable land for growing their own vegetables and fruit.

The statute of the cooperative of Type III also lays down that each family can retain as personal property for their own use, for deliveries and for sales to the State up to two cows and calves, up to two pigs in farrow and an unlimited number of sheep, goats, chickens, rabbits and other small animals. In addition they can keep a horse with one or two foals, or an ox.

5. How are the fields cropped?

It is naturally necessary to amalgamate the fields in order to achieve joint economy in the production cooperative. Good labour organisation is then necessary for cropping the large areas thus produced.

The peasant cooperators form permanent brigades according to the statute and the regulations of the cooperative. The best

and most experienced peasant is elected as leader by the general meeting. Generally speaking, the brigades discuss every day the work to be done in the fields.

6. How are the animals tended?

In a cooperative of Type III the cattle are stabled and tended jointly. For this purpose, too, brigades are established, largely from women. In some production cooperatives the cattle are still kept in a number of sheds, since the stabling necessary for a big undertaking cannot be built immediately. In other production cooperatives however, building of such stabling is going ahead fast.

The cattle brigades are established on a permanent basis and they are divided into working groups for the various animals. The cattle brigades must look after the animals and see to the proper storage and distribution of the fodder.

The cattle brigades, just like the field brigades, have their own working plan for fulfilling the production figures set down in the plan of the cooperatives.

Cooperative tending of the cattle leads to a considerable improvement in the health of the animals. The production cooperative in Merxleben near Langensalza has now stationed its cattle in two newly built cow sheds. One shed houses the t.b.-tested cattle and the other the cattle which react positively to a tuberculin test. Only a few weeks after the redistribution, a production increase of 50 per cent could be noted. Veterinary inspection is laid down by contract and the veterinarian makes sterility and gestation tests every six weeks.

The evaluation of the work of the cattle brigade is on a similar basis to the evaluation of the peasant cooperators working in the field brigades. The norms established are varied according to the very varying labour conditions in the different production cooperatives. A usual norm for a woman tending cattle is the charge of 12 cows. She receives one work unit per cow per month for fulfilling this norm, which includes the tending and feeding of these animals. In addition she is credited with 0.8 work units for producing each 100 kilogrammes of milk with a fat content of 3.5 per cent.

7. How is the work of the various peasant cooperators evaluated?

One of the most important questions is the correct evaluation of the work of each individual peasant cooperator. A peasant

cooperator who does more qualified work and produces better results than others receives proportionally more in the distribution of the income. The basis for the evaluation of the work done is the daily work norm. These work norms are so determined that a conscientiously working member can fulfill them without great effort. In fixing the work norms, the quantity of work, the quality of the work and the implements needed are taken into consideration.

When for example two peasant cooperators have fulfilled their daily work norm, but the character of their work is varied, it is naturally necessary to evaluate their work norms differently. This is done by the use of labour units. For heavy work the fulfilment of the daily work norm brings more work units than for light work. Work involving higher qualifications or more responsibility also bring more work units.

Here are two examples:

The daily work norm for harrowing corn with a horse harrow 2 metres broad is an area of 4.4 hectares. This work is not difficult and demands no special knowledge. The fulfilment of the work norm is therefore evaluated at 1.2 work units. Mowing with the grass mower and two horses, with a mowing width of 1.50 metres, has a daily work norm of 2.95 hectares. This mowing work demands more attention and responsibility than the harrowing and the fulfilment of the daily work norm is therefore evaluated at 1.4 work units. The leader of the brigade enters in a book for each peasant cooperator the work which he has done and the number of work units earned.

8. What do the peasant cooperators earn?

This varies greatly since it depends upon the production of the cooperatives and of the individual members. A hard working peasant will always earn more than one who neglects his work. Before the income, in kind and in cash, is distributed to the members of the cooperative, the cooperative must naturally have met its obligation to the State, such as delivery quotas and taxes, and have laid aside means in cash or in kind for certain purposes which will stabilize and further develop the production cooperatives. For example, certain funds must be laid aside for seed and reserves and for an assistance fund (Type III) for invalids, old people etc. The income of the peasant cooperator comes from three sources in both kind and cash:

1. income for the work units performed in the course of a year;
2. a certain percentage of the income of the cooperative according to the size and quality of the arable land, which he brought into the cooperative (this percentage varies from a maximum of 40 per cent in Type I, a maximum of 30 per cent in Type II, and a maximum of 20 per cent in Type III);
3. income from the individual plot of land, cattle holding etc.

In the course of the year, the members can also receive advances proportional to the work done. Here is an example from the Type III production cooperative "Florian Geyer" in Aschersleben:

The peasant Lengnick received land in the course of the land reform. Before joining the production cooperative he had no horse and his income was relatively low.

In September 1953 he was credited with 45 work units and his wife with 30 work units. They receive 7.24 marks for each of their 75 work units, making a total of 543 marks. (In other cooperatives the payment per work unit may be higher or lower. It is governed by the total income of the cooperative.) In addition they receive goods in kind, valued at about 180 marks — per work unit 2.5 kilogrammes of corn, 2 kilogrammes of potatoes, 0.05 kilogrammes of oil seed and 4.5 kilogrammes of fodder roots. For the ten hectares which he brought into the cooperative, he receives 1,260 marks in cash and about 520 marks in kind (per hectare 75.5 kilogrammes of cereals, 2.5 kilogrammes of oil seed, 43.3 kilogrammes of potatoes, 0.8 kilogrammes of legumes and 143 kilogrammes of fodder roots). This produces a total of 1,780 marks yearly or about 148 marks monthly. Thus in September Herr Lengnick and his wife received in cash and in kind from the cooperative 543 marks plus 180 marks plus 148 marks = 871 marks.

In addition Herr Lengnick and his wife have earned 4,380 marks in 1953 from the animals which they keep privately. If half of this is deducted for fodder costs, there remain 2,190 marks annually or 182.50 marks monthly as net income from the private animals. This sum raises therefore their monthly income to 1053.50 marks.

9. Who runs the production cooperative?

The cooperative is run neither by the chairman nor by any other individual. Each cooperative has its statute agreed by the membership, and this is its basic law. The highest organ

of a production cooperative is the general meeting, which takes decisions on all basic questions affecting the cooperative. The decisions of the general meeting are binding upon all members.

The general meeting elects the chairman, the board and the auditing commission for a period of one year and has the right to remove these persons before this year is out, if they do their job badly or if they misuse their rights.

The general meeting decides on the acceptance of new members and on expulsion. It confirms the production plan and the plan on income and expenditure, the purchase of animals, machines and implements, the laying down of work norms and so on. This means that the economic life of the cooperative is run with the agreement of the members.

These democratic rights lay upon each individual member the great responsibility of cooperating actively in the administration and building of the cooperative and of supporting with all their strength the chairman and the board in carrying out their tasks.

10. Does the State give particular support to production cooperatives?

Yes. This support, however, not extended at the cost of the individual peasants is in the interest of a better standard of living for all working people. The support is given in the form of credits, special facilities in tax payments etc. The production cooperatives receive this support since they are able to produce bigger crops and higher labour productivity by the use of big-area farming, the better utilisation of modern agrarian technology and the better organisation of labour. Here are a few examples:

On August 3rd 1952 the production cooperative "Fortschritt" ("Progress") was founded in Brehna, Bitterfeld district. In the first year of its existence this cooperative produced considerably bigger crops than the individual peasants in Brehna. The crop of winter rye, for instance, was 2940 kilogrammes per hectare, 22.5 per cent more than the crops of the individual peasants. The crops of winter barley amounted to 3600 kilogrammes per hectare, that is 12 per cent more than the individual peasants, and the crops of oats were 3200 kilogrammes per hectare, one third more than the individual peasants. The crop of summer oil seed was 28.5 per cent higher per hectare than the average on the fields of individual peasants in the Bitterfeld district.

Great successes were also achieved with cattle. Within a short period the number of cattle could be very considerably increased. When the cooperative was founded it possessed 360 animals (135 cattle, 152 pigs and five sheep). By October both natural increase and purchase had more than doubled the total figure. The number of cattle had risen by 53 per cent, the number of pigs by 160 per cent, and there were 28 times as many sheep.

11. Have the peasants an organisation of their own to represent their interests?

The organisation of the peasants is the Association for Mutual Peasant Aid — Peasant Trade Cooperative. The VDGB, as it is known, is the united democratic organisation of the working peasantry. This organisation works for democracy in the villages, for the economic social and cultural advance of the peasants population and for peace and the peaceful reunification of Germany. The small peasants and the middle peasants themselves run the VDGB, both in the local groups and in the central board of the entire organisation. The central board, which guarantees the interests of the peasants, consists of eighty people, of whom 34 are working individual peasants and nursery gardeners, 27 peasant cooperators and 19 full-time officials.

The machine and tractor stations (MTS)

1. What is the task of the MTS?

The machine and tractor stations were created by the state in order to make modern technology and the most progressive agricultural science available to the peasants and above all to the small and middle peasants. At the same time the establishment of these stations made the small and middle peasants economically completely independent of the big peasants. There are about sixhundred MTS to-day, helping the peasants to get bigger crops cheaper and more quickly through intensive working of the soil. These stations are a living expression of the alliance between the workers and the peasants.

The MTS also have the task of helping the peasants in technical questions. This is done principally by the agronomists who give constant technical advice, particularly to the peasant cooperators.

Another task of the MTS, which is just as important, is help for cultural life in the villages. In many villages the house of culture of the MTS has become the centre of social life. Through the initiative of the MTS, libraries and cultural groups are established; lectures are given on the discoveries in agrarian science made by such men as Michurin and Lysenko; and in Michurin circles and discussion groups the peasants exchange their experiences.

To-day the small and middle peasants regard the MTS as a friend without whose help they would find things very difficult.

2. What does the peasant pay for the work done by the MTS?

An MTS is in the first place an installation aimed to give effective economic help to the peasant cooperators and the small and middle peasants. For this reason the tariffs of the MTS are graded according to the size of the farm. The prices charged vary according to the amount and the character of the work done. There are four tariff groups. The main idea in establishing the tariffs is to follow the principle of a just distribution of costs, so that the smallest farm should have the lowest costs. The farms which are economically most strong pay the highest tariffs, though even in the work done for big peasants part of the cost is paid by government subsidies.

Production cooperatives during the first few years of their existence, when they must develop and consolidate themselves, pay the lowest tariffs. Here are some examples:

Tariff group	I production coop.	II farms up to 10 hectares	III farms up to 20 hectares	IV over 20 hectares
Middle ploughing . . . 21 to 25 cm.	17.50	21.50	26.50	66.—
Disharrowing	7.—	9.—	11.—	22.—
Drilling	5.—	6.50	10.—	22.—
Corn harvesting	12.—	15.—	19.—	40.—
Potato harrowing	15.—	25.—	35.—	65.—
Potato hoeing	22.50	28.—	46.—	85.50
Hoeing corn, rape and root crops	6.50	8.—	14.—	30.—
Meadow harrowing	4.—	5.—	9.—	15.—

The actual cost of the work done is in every case higher than these charges. The necessary subsidy is paid by the State, even in the case of the farms of big peasants.

3. Who do the MTS work for?

The machine and tractor stations work for all peasants. They devote particular attention to the peasant cooperators and the individual small and middle peasants but they also work on the farms of the big peasants. However, the big peasants are technically and materially better off, possess their own horses and generally more workers. For this reason the MTS always works first for the cooperators and the small and middle peasants and then later for this economically stronger section.

The MTS Rogätz in the Magdeburg district, for example, worked 675 hectares of land in the third quarter of 1953 for production cooperatives. For small peasants with farms of up to 10 hectares the MTS worked 1458 hectares, for individual peasants up to 20 hectares it worked 200 hectares, and for peasants owning over 20 hectares it worked 150 hectares. The areas here are expressed in "hectare-units" which are an average for various types of work.

Innovations in the villages

1. Country Schools

Since 1945 there have been great changes in the country schools. The children from the villages, just like town children, are getting the chance to attend proper eight-class schools. This has been achieved largely by the building of 1454 central schools in country districts. In 1945/1946 there were still 4114 one-class schools but by 1954 there were only 98 of these one-class schools left. A second teacher has been attached to all country schools with more than 25 pupils.

2. Village Films

As a result of the cultural decree issued by the Government in February 1950, 90 per cent of all villages in the German Democratic Republic see at least one film every week, shown by the government institution "Country Film." This organisation disposes of 1500 permanent cinemas and 1667 portable film projectors.

In 1952/53 a total of two hundred small size film projectors were distributed free to agricultural production cooperatives and peasant cooperators were given free training in projection. In the first half of 1953 a total of 233,806 film performances were given in the countryside and in the first half of 1954

the figure had risen to 348,962 performances. The number of people seeing the films had risen 50 per cent, from 14,900,000 to 22,400,000.

3. Amateur Arts in the Villages

Amateur art groups are playing an important part in the development of cultural life in the villages. It is also important in this connection that the agricultural population has to-day more free time than in olden days. At present there are 3,100 amateur art groups in the villages. These groups are not only an expression of a new culture in the country side; they are at the same time a serious attempt to tend the best cultural traditions of the German peasantry. The amateur art groups in the country side have produced such outstanding folk art ensembles as the ensemble of the Thälmann-Pioneers from Altmügeln, Leipzig district, which performed at the Fourth World Youth Festival in Bucarest in 1953.

4. Who finances the amateur art groups?

The financial basis is undoubtedly very important for successful cultural work. Financial support for the village groups is provided as the result of various laws and decrees of the government. Cash and musical instruments are provided from the budgets of the villages, the districts and the counties; from the VDGB, the Free German Trade Union Federation, the Free German Youth, the Democratic Women's Federation, the Culture League and other organisations. In 1954 the VDGB alone provided 10,000 marks to help the culture groups in each county. On application, sums of over 1000 marks can be provided from the cultural fund of the Government for the furnishing of peasant club rooms, the purchase of instruments, costumes and so on. To develop folk art the Government increased budget funds available from 600,000 marks in 1951 to nearly 9,000,000 marks in 1954 and a very important proportion of these funds went to village folk art groups. The cultural groups also received generous financial support from the director's funds of the MTS and the nationally owned estates and from the agricultural and forestry trade union. These contributions from the trade union come from a certain percentage of the trade union dues which are earmarked for cultural purposes.

All these generous measures of support have helped to develop a rich cultural life in the villages.

5. Houses of Culture and Libraries

The many cultural installations created with government help in the villages have laid the groundwork for successful cultural work. The houses of culture belong to the people and they are available to all the villagers. These houses of culture have become the centre for the entire cultural life in the countryside. They are the scene of meetings, lectures, discussions, celebrations and so on. The Government provides financial assistance for building the houses of culture and for maintaining them. In 1953 subsidies of 1,652,000 marks and in 1954 subsidies of 1,850,000 marks were provided for the installation and equipment of houses of culture and cultural rooms in the MTS, the nationally owned estates and similar places. Up to 1953 a total of 238 country houses of culture were established. In addition the MTS, the nationally owned estates and national forestry enterprises maintain 1000 cultural rooms and there are also 1,944 peasants' cultural rooms. Libraries attached to these houses of culture and cultural rooms provide scientific and technical books, novels, classics, youth books and political literature. The libraries are provided by the MTS, the nationally owned estates, the production cooperatives, the peasant club rooms of the VDGB and the schools. Nearly every village has to-day at least one library and a total of many hundreds of thousands of books are available to the village population in 2,900 libraries.

6. Michurin Circles and Michurin Fields

More and more peasants are becoming interested in questions of agrarian science and particularly in the discoveries of Michurin*) and Lyssenko**).

About three thousand experimental Michurin fields have been established and the peasants meet here, discuss the problems raised and exchange their experiences. Scientists often participate in these discussions. In addition, there are between 700 and 800 "Clubs of Young Agronomists". The Academy of Agricultural Science holds regular lectures for the leaders of the clubs, gives scientific guidance to these clubs and in a number of cases has charged the best of the clubs with research work.

*) Ivan Michurin. Great Soviet scientist who recognised the importance of the influence of environment upon the organism and who used this in his practical breeding experiments. In this way he developed fruit types particularly resistant to frost, which made it possible to extend orchards far into the Northern latitudes.

**) T. D. Lyssenko. President of the Lenin Academy of Agriculture Sciences and a pupil of Michurin. He is a leading representative of progressive agro-biology and further developed Michurin's basic theories.

Various experiments are made on the many research fields, such as experiments in the use of prepared corn seed, grafting experiments, and experiments in the optimum distance between plants and in various types of fertilizer.

7. Country Clinics

In order to improve the health services for the country population the Government has established country clinics. The number of such clinics is rising from year to year and will continue to rise in the future. In 1948 there were only two such clinics but by 1953 the number had risen to 235, and 500 are planned for 1955. The Government provided 40 million marks for this work in 1954. One or more doctors and dentists with the necessary assistants work in each of these clinics, which are provided with modern equipment. In many cases these country clinics also have delivery beds. These clinics provide the country population not only with medical treatment but also with preventive medicine.

How does the middle class live in the German Democratic Republic?

Craftsmen

1. How many independent craftsmen are there in the German Democratic Republic?

There are about 280,000 craft undertakings and a total of 850,000 persons are employed there.

2. Are the craftsmen short of orders?

No. On the contrary the peace economy of the German Democratic Republic provides the craftsmen with so many orders, both from the population and from nationally owned and private firms that they have difficulty in meeting all of them. The most important tasks for craftsmen in the framework of the planned development of the economy of the German Democratic Republic are the following: the manufacture of high quality consumer goods for the population; the supply of precision-made parts for nationally owned and private industry; the carrying out of skilled repair and maintenance work in factories; the manufacture of export goods in which there is a high labour intensity; and building.

The Five Year Plan for the development of the economy, the Law for the Development of Craft Work, the tax legislation dealing with craftsmen and the decree on prices, all of which laws and decrees were worked out with the active participation of craftsmen, open great perspectives for the development of craft work in the German Democratic Republic. Here are statistics on this development:

Turnover in millions of marks

1946	3,010
1950	4,424
1951	4,900
1953	5,830
1954 (6 months)	3,400

The law on the Five Year Plan foresaw an increase in production of 160 per cent, from 4,400 million marks in 1950 to 7,000 million marks in 1955. In fact, however, the production planned for the end of 1955 will already be reached at the end of 1954.

This great expansion in craft work under the conditions ruling in the workers' and peasants' state of the German Democratic Republic was reflected at the 1954 Leipzig fair. Here are some examples:

Berlin craftsmen alone took orders for the delivery of high quality craft products valued at 7 million marks, of which 175,000 marks worth were destined for export. This was more than double the orders taken at the 1953 fair, when Berlin craftsmen received orders amounting to 3 million marks. The biggest proportion of these orders went to electrical craft firms. One craft firm alone, the electrical firm Willi Schranz, took orders amounting to 2.5 million marks for igelite welding apparatus, quartz burners and short wave therapy apparatus. Buyers from Belgium, Britain and Poland were particularly interested in the igelite welding apparatus. This apparatus costs 4,500 marks compared to 7,500 marks for similar installations made by West German firms. The craft firm Electro-Werner received orders amounting to 1 million marks for water heaters, immersion heaters, waffle-irons and warmers for babies bottles. The cabinet makers' cooperative sold 1,000 drawing boards, the coopers' and turners' cooperative sold wine casks valued at 14,000 marks to Hungary. The craftsmen's firm of Kusak sold water balls valued at 15,000 marks to Czechoslovakia and did a total of 235,000 marks worth of business. The number of Berlin craft firms doing export business increased from twelve in 1953 to sixteen in 1954.

3. How many workers may a craftsman employ?

As many as he likes. However, undertakings employing more than ten workers are classified as private industry, except in the case of brick laying and carpentering firms which may employ twenty workers and street repair, roofing and painting firms which may employ fifteen workers. These figures do not include the craftsman himself, apprentices, members of the family so long as they are not on a wage basis, and persons suffering from at least 50 per cent incapacity.

4. What taxes does a craftsman pay?

Craftsmen pay a "normative" tax, that is to say that each industrial group is taxed on the basis of a special norm which is worked out with the aid of the craftsmen themselves. This has the advantage that the size of the tax is adjusted according to the profession and that it is differentiated in accordance with the real economic importance of the firm. Previously craftsmen had to pay four different taxes: income tax, turnover tax, trade and property tax. To-day one tax covers all

these categories so that the craftsman has only one payment to make every quarter instead of four different payments. Simultaneously the compulsory keeping of books for tax purposes has been dispensed with.

Tax Deductions

Male craftsmen over 65 and female craftsmen over 50, as well as craftsmen who were persecuted by the Nazi regime pay only half of the normative tax. Male craftsmen working alone, over 65, and female craftsmen, working alone, over 60, pay only 60 marks tax annually.

Craftsmen who are more than 50 per cent incapacitated pay only half the normal tax, and if they are two-thirds incapacitated, they pay only one quarter of the normal tax. These advantages are extended only if not more than one wage earner is employed.

Blind craftsmen pay no taxes.

If the craftsman employs wage earning workers, he must pay an additional percentage for each worker according to a special taxation table. No additional tax is paid for apprentices or for the craftsman's wife, if she helps him. A craftsman working alone, such as a cabinet maker or a tailor, pays a yearly tax of 600 marks.

A decree issued by the Cabinet on December 17th 1953 laid down that village craftsmen with not more than one employee should pay a lower rate of tax.

The following details show that craftsmen in the German Democratic Republic are in a more favourable position with regard to taxation than in West Germany.

A cabinet maker with two workers pays in the German Democratic Republic taxes of 988 marks annually (basic tax in district group III plus additional taxation for two workers). In West Germany a cabinet maker with a turnover of 20,000 marks, the average of what he can attain with two workers, has to pay an annual tax of 2,218 marks.

5. What are the social insurance regulations for craftsmen?

A craftsman and the members of his family receive the same social insurance benefit as workers and office workers (see page 38). He has to pay a social insurance contribution equal to his basic tax.

6. Under what conditions can a craftsman receive credits?

Craftsmen receive credits on application, either from the Cooperative Bank of which they are members or from the

District Savings Bank. They must pay 5 per cent interest. Up to September 15th 1953 credits amounting to 20.4 million marks had been granted to craftsmen and craftsmen's cooperatives.

7. Who represents the rights of craftsmen?

The Law for the Promotion of Craft Work dated August 9th 1950 established Chambers of Craftsmen in the various counties, with branches in the districts, as the organisations representing the interests of the craftsmen. (For the duties of the Chambers of Craftsmen see "Private Industry", Question 4.)

Retail trade

1. What role is played by private retail trade in the German Democratic Republic?

The new course of the Government of the German Democratic Republic sets special tasks for retail trade and encourages the broad development of private retail trade.

These possibilities are shown by the fact that in the second quarter of 1954 private retail trade was able to increase its turnover by one third over the figures for the second quarter of 1953.

2. Is private retail trade put at a disadvantage in the distribution of goods compared to the State Trading Organisation and the Cooperative Stores?

No. Goods are supplied to all retail outlets without discrimination, except in the case of a few expensive imported goods in which there are restrictions. Since these goods are still in short supply and are sold with a special surcharge which goes to the budget, they are restricted to sale in the shops of the State Trading Organisation.

3. What is the trade margin in retail trade?

Trade margins vary between 5 and 35 per cent of the wholesale price. The size of the margin is determined by the Ministry of Finance for the various branches and in all cases provides a good basis of existence for private retail trade.

4. May private shopkeepers employ assistants?

Yes, as many as they like.

5. What taxes are paid by the retail trader?

A retail trader has to pay turnover tax, trade tax, property tax and income tax.

The turnover tax amounts to 3 per cent of the turnover of the shop.

The trade tax varies according to capital and profits.

The land tax and property tax varies according to the property and any land which may be owned. The first

ten thousand marks for the tax payer, five thousand marks for his wife and five thousand marks for each child are free of tax.

The trader is legally bound to keep a record of income and expenditure, and at the end of the year must submit a tax statement with profit and loss account to the tax office. If the retail trader is entered in the trade registry, he is obliged to keep proper books.

Private industry

1. What role is played by private industry in the German Democratic Republic?

Private industry is made up mainly of factories in the following branches: food and beverage industry, textile industry and ready-to-wear clothing, machine industry, electrotechnical industry, fine mechanics and optics, and woodworking and glassworking together with the printing industry. Private industry plays an important part in supplying the population with consumer goods.

The production of private industry has steadily risen since 1945. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is interested in a further development of private industry and helps private industry to extend its factories and increase its income. This is shown by the fact that production in private industry was 18 per cent higher in the first quarter of 1954 than it was in the first quarter of 1953. The "Decree on the Extension and Improvement of Consumer Goods for the Population" dated December 17th 1953 stated in part:

"Private undertakings producing mass consumer goods, which have not sufficient capital are to receive credits, with a contribution of a small proportion themselves, according to the regulations issued by the Deutsche Notenbank."

"Private undertakings which commence the production of mass consumer goods in addition to their main production

will receive the credits necessary for such new production at a net interest rate of 5 per cent per annum i. e. without commission."

"Private production, building and transport undertakings subject to income tax have the right to devote 25 per cent of their net profit for investments and general repairs. The tax is in such cases to be estimated on the remaining profits."

"Private production, building and transport undertakings subject to income tax are allowed to write off, according to the established writing-off regulation objects of factory investment capital, whether or not the values of these objects are shown in the balances or whether they have already been written off for a nominal sum of 1 mark. These sums may be written off from the profits for tax purposes."

2. Who do private undertakings receive their materials and machines from?

Private enterprises receive the necessary raw materials, either from the district council, or from the firm placing the order, on the basis of production and supply agreements which they make with nationally owned or private industrial and trade undertakings, or on the basis of export orders. The production and supply agreements must be registered by the State Agreement Office attached to the Chamber of Industry and Trade. This ensures that valuable raw materials are only used for the production of useful and attractive consumer goods.

To extend their production private factories can buy machines and apparatus from the State Trade Centres.

3. Do private enterprises take part in foreign trade?

Yes. A large part of private industry produces export goods such as stockings, curtains, knitted goods, optical and electrical apparatus, jewelry and glassware. These articles are much in demand in the almost unlimited democratic world market consisting of the eastern European states, the USSR, China and Korea.

4. Who represents the interests of private undertakings?

All private enterprises with the exception of small industry and craftsmen belong to the Chamber of Industry and Trade. This has branches in all 14 counties of the German Democratic Republic and in the democratic sector of Berlin.

The "Decree on the Extension and Improvement of the Production of Consumer Goods for the Population" dated December 17th 1953 stated:

"Factories of private industry have a great task in raising the living standard of the population and increasing the production of mass consumer goods. In carrying out this task the activity of the Chambers of Industry and Trade and the Craftsmen's Chambers is of great importance. The main task of these Chambers is the provision of the conditions necessary for a decisive increase in the production of consumer goods and the full utilisation of the capacity available in private industry for this purpose. The Chambers of Industry and Trade and the Craftsmen's Chambers devote their main attention to such questions as the correct distribution of controlled raw materials and other materials, the organisation and extension of the local raw material basis, the extension of the variety and improvement of the quality of the goods produced, support for the trading organisations in the speediest distribution of the goods, the reduction of production costs and the improvement of working conditions."

What is the position of Former Resettlers in the German Democratic Republic?

After the collapse of Nazi Germany about 11.5 million inhabitants of eastern European territories were resettled in the territory of Germany as defined in the Potsdam Agreement. In the German Democratic Republic these persons are referred to only as "former resettlers," since from the very start they were treated as full citizens with equal rights. No "resettlement camps" or "refugee camps" were established here. All inhabitants of the eastern territories were settled in towns and villages and as far as possible received work in their former professions in so far as they were not excluded from work in schools, the courts, the police and so on, because of their former active membership of the Nazi party.

In the countryside all estates of over 100 hectares were taken over without compensation and the ground was distributed in the first place to former resettlers able to run a farm.

Here are some figures. At present a total of about 4.3 million former resettlers live in the German Democratic Republic (in West Germany the figure is 7.2 million). 24.2 per cent of the inhabitants of the German Democratic Republic are thus former resettlers, compared to only 12.3 per cent in West Germany.

As a result of the land reform 90,500 former resettler families received farms with a total area of 763,000 hectares. This provided for a total of 350,000 former resettlers when all members of their family are taken into account. This distribution included the grant of 19,180 dwellings with 25,110 dwelling rooms, 21,862 stables and 9,141 barns as well as large quantities of agricultural machinery and implements. Up to spring 1949 the former resettlers who had received farms got state credits of over 500 million marks, which enabled them to build more than 20,000 dwellings and many thousands of new barns and stables.

Statistics prepared in autumn 1950 showed that 73,000 former resettlers were working in the state administration, nearly 9000 in the Post Office, over 35,000 on the railways, and 23,500 as teachers. At the beginning of September 1950 the government promulgated a far-reaching law on the improvement of the situation of former resettlers. This law made the provincial governments and district administrations responsible for completing the building of dwelling houses and farm buildings for former resettler farmers by, at the latest, the

end of 1952. In addition needy former resettler-farmers received over and above previous credits, special interest-free credits for the building of dwellings and farm buildings. 25 million marks were allocated for this purpose in 1951.

In addition, the most needy former resettler-farmers received up to June 1st 1951 ten thousand milch-cows at very low prices. Credits for these purposes could be paid back in instalments over a three-year period. In addition the delivery quota could be halved for resettler-farmers who had not yet consolidated their position, and for widows and invalids.

It was further laid down that former resettlers must be given first consideration in the distribution of dwellings to the workers and office workers of nationally owned factories, machine and tractor stations and nationally owned estates. The dwelling house building programme for factories in which many former resettlers work was immediately extended. At the same time the law extended interest-free credits of up to 1000 marks per household for the purchase of furniture and household goods. Former resettlers who were craftsmen received up to 5000 marks for a ten-year term on very favourable terms for starting or extending their businesses.

Needy former resettlers whose children were over compulsory schooling age but who were still attending school to complete their elementary education received a special education allotment of 25 marks monthly.

This law wiped out in the main all material differences still existing between a proportion of the former resettlers and the old established citizens. Resettlers thus do not exist any longer in the German Democratic Republic as a particular section labouring under a disadvantage.

The political aim of this law was to complete the integration with completely equal rights for the former resettlers. This goal has been reached. In West Germany, on the other hand, the problem of the resettlers has not been solved. The aim is to make the resettlers, who have been put at a disadvantage, ready to participate in a new war.

The successful integration of the former resettlers in the German Democratic Republic has disposed of the old propaganda lie of "Volk ohne Raum" (People without living space). It has been proved that the living standard of a nation does not depend upon the density of population but upon the development of the peace economy and the just distribution of the national income.

(The question of the Oder-Neiße frontier between Germany and Poland is dealt with in the chapter "The Foreign Policy of the German Democratic Republic.")

The position of pensioners in the German Democratic Republic

1. What pensions are paid in the German Democratic Republic?

One of the outstanding lies spread by hate propaganda in West Germany is the claim that the standard of living of the population in West Germany is far higher than in the German Democratic Republic. The details and comparisons published in this book show that the opposite is the case.

One of these lies in particular is that pensioners are better off in the West. Here are the facts:

The minimum pension in the German Democratic Republic is 75 marks monthly for incapacity pension and 65 marks monthly for widows' pension. Old age pensioners get on an average 92 marks and widows receive on an average 70 marks. The lowest rate of miners' full pension is 85 marks and half-rent for the orphans of miners is 50 marks.

Here is a comparison with West Germany:

	West Germany incl. West Berlin marks	GDR incl. dem. sector of Berlin marks
Minimum pension for incapacity . .	50.—	75.—
Supplement for children	20.—	32.50
Supplement for special care	—	20.— to 60.—
Supplementary special care for blind persons with additional disability, armless persons and triple amputees	—	30.— to 60.—
Minimum pensions for widows . . .	40.—	65.—
Minimum pensions for full orphans	30.—	55.—
Minimum pensions for half orphans	30.—	35.—

Since the end of the war the position of pensioners in the German Democratic Republic has steadily improved as a result of the development of the peace economy and the pension increases in 1950 and 1953.

The following table shows the increase in average pension in the German Democratic Republic:

	Disability pension	old age pension	widows pension	half orphans	full orphans
June 30th 1950	70.60	73.80	50.70	25.80	45.80
June 30th 1954	90.98	91.76	68.77	35.81	55.82

In addition to these pensions all helplessly disabled persons in the German Democratic Republic receive a nursing supplement. Despite these increases the position of pensioners cannot be regarded as satisfactory, since the pensions are still relatively low. The steady rise in the standard of living of the entire population, the reduction of prices and the extension of social services is bringing a steady improvement in the position of the pensioners. If the pensions were radically increased this would withdraw money, which cannot be spared, from the entire economy and would hinder further economic progress and further reduction of the prices.

Of course some people in West Germany and West Berlin receive higher pensions than those paid in the German Democratic Republic. These persons are, however, mainly former high Government officials, who served the Nazi state truly, and former generals and officers. No money is devoted to people of this type by the workers in the German Democratic Republic. They find it disgraceful that in West Germany Nazi generals and SS officers who have been sentenced for war crimes and then "pardoned" by the Americans should receive pensions of over one thousand marks monthly.

One particularly striking example is the fact that the insurance authorities in Schleswig, West Germany, have granted the pension for widows of "high civil servants" to the widow SS General Heydrich, who was responsible for the murder of countless German and Czech patriots. This pension was granted retrospectively from December 1st 1950.

2. Can old age pensioners earn additional money?

Old age pensioners who do work according to their abilities receive their full pension in addition to their wages. Since in the German Democratic Republic there is no unemployment and a lack of workers in most branches of industry, there are plenty of opportunities for pensioners to work, if they are able and wish to do so.

Concerning women

Women at work

1. What difference is there between men's wages and women's wages?

There is no difference at all. Women earn exactly as much as men. There is no such thing in the German Democratic Republic as a "woman's wage," since the Constitution grants full equal rights to women and thus women in all trades and professions receive equal wages for equal work. It is nothing exceptional for a woman tool maker to earn more than a man on the same job owing to her greater skill or better methods of work.

2. Must women in the German Democratic Republic go out to work and do "men's work"?

No.

First there is no compulsion to work in the German Democratic Republic. A married woman and mother who lives from the income of her husband and who wishes to work as a housewife exclusively, because of circumstances or the way she feels, can naturally do this. Secondly women are not allowed to do physically heavy work or work dangerous to health. All work in this category is laid down in an official list. This list states among other things that women may not be employed upon jobs entailing the lifting, carrying, and movement of weights exceeding 15 kilogrammes. If this lifting is only occasional, it may be done, but only if the weight does not exceed 30 kilogrammes. Pregnant women and nursing mothers may not do work in the same categories, if the weights exceed 8 or 15 kilogrammes.

The list of prohibited work includes the following categories:

All underground work as face worker, loader, pit builder, work in steeply sloping ways, work with compressed air tools and work where the temperature exceeds 24 degrees centigrade;

Work at the ovens in coking plants and lignite carbonization plants;

All work on presses, mills, smithies and foundries in metal factories;

All work on frame saws, bandsaws, circular saws and wood splitting machines in saw mills and equivalent factories.

Work dangerous to health which is forbidden for women includes work with benzol, the manufacture, packing, storage and transport of "Thomas powder", work in rooms with carbonic disulphide, and where aromatic nitrogen and aminol combinations are produced. They are also not allowed to work on coupling work in railyards.

Thirdly there are in the German Democratic Republic no professions which are reserved for men. Many thousands of women are employed in all branches of industry and the professions from tram driver up to minister.

3. What is the income in professions which are mainly followed by women?

a) health services

Baby nurses receive 320 marks monthly or up to 384 marks with performance pay.

Doctors receive in their first year as internes between 620 and 685 marks and in the second year 686 to 805 marks. A doctor with her own station receives 875 to 940 marks.

b) social services

A nursery school teacher receives 320 to 480 marks.

c) schools

There is of course no difference between the salaries paid to men and women teachers. Details of teachers' salaries are given on page 149.

d) typists and secretaries

Salaries for typists and secretaries vary according to district. In the highest classification beginner typists receive 280 to 310 marks;

typists taking dictation at 180 syllables per minute and typing 200 characters per minute receive between 350 and 400 marks; typists doing particularly responsible work receive between 400 and 460 marks;

technical secretaries receive 460 to 530 marks;

chief secretaries receive 530 to 600 marks.

4. How does a woman, who goes out to work, look after her household?

In the factories, according to size, there are cooperative shops and shops of the state trading organisation, factory laundries,

tailoring shops and shoe repairers etc., which save time and work for the working women. At present the public and also the Government has seriously criticized the fact that the factory directorships have not devoted enough attention to providing such facilities.

To make shopping easier, many of the factory shops provided by the cooperatives and the state trading organisation have developed the ordering system, by which the purchaser hands in her order, and can collect it ready-packed a few hours later. In some factories mobile shops and sales-waggon bring the goods to the workers at their work benches.

Every woman with her own household who looks after her husband, children up to the age of 16 or members of the family in need of assistance, is legally entitled to one paid "household day" in the month. In West Germany on the other hand, employers are attempting to abolish the "household day" where it still exists, and labour courts have decided in favour of the employers on the grounds that this ensures "equal rights" for women.

5. Who looks after the children?

Nearly all large factories have their own day nurseries and creches. In many cases, too, municipal day nurseries have been opened near the factories. The municipalities and factories naturally also provide week-nurseries and other accomodations for children.

The charges for children in these installations are extremely low, as is shown by the following table giving the charges for children up to the age of three:

Harvest nurseries	5 to 10 marks per month
Day nurseries	15 marks per month
Week-nurseries	25 marks per month
Children's homes	40 marks per month

It is clear that these charges do not cover the cost of food, the installation and the pedagogic and medical care for the children. The factory directorships, the trade union and the State give big subsidies for these installations.

At the end of 1953 there were, in the German Democratic Republic 711 creches with 20,675 places, 151 children's homes with 6758 places. In the factories there were creches with 5265 places.

To ease the work of peasants and women agricultural workers 261 seasonal creches with 4336 places were provided in 1953 to look after children up to the age of three.

In September 1954 the number of municipal creches had risen to 954 with 27,859 places. There were 165 children's homes with 7,582 places and 245 factory creches with 8,648 places. In addition 508 harvest creches and seasonal creches provided 7,178 places.

By 1955 it is planned to provide 40,000 places for children in creches. The State will provide 40 million marks for this purpose. Day nurseries with a total of 160,000 places are also planned.

6. Who represents the interests of women in the factories?

The rights of women described in this chapter are laid down in the Constitution and in the "Law on the Protection of Mothers and Children and the Rights of Women". It is a punishable offence to break this law. The interests of the working women are protected by the factory directorship, the trade union and other social organisations.

A Cabinet decision on May 2nd 1952 laid down that factory directorships were obliged to draw up plans for the promotion of women and to work steadily to put these plans into effect. In the meetings at which the directorship reports on the fulfilment of the factory collective agreement, a report must also be made on the fulfilment of the plan for the promotion of women. This plan includes both the technical and social further qualification of women and special social and health measures for them. The factory trade union committee supports the factory directorship in carrying out this plan and supervises adherence to it.

In the factories the women themselves elect women's committees, which have the task of interesting the women in day-to-day politics, winning their cooperation in social work, and ending shortcomings in the factory which affect women.

The women's committee makes suggestions to the factory directorship and the trade union committee and proposes measures in the interests of the women.

There are to-day eight thousand women's committees in the nationally owned factories, the private factories and the agricultural production cooperatives in the German Democratic Republic.

Mother and child

1. What care is given to pregnant women?

Every pregnant woman in the German Democratic Republic has the following advantages:

- a) in all districts there are aid and advice centres for mothers, which give free medical, social and legal aid to pregnant women;
- b) from the fourth month of pregnancy additional ration cards are granted, giving:

300 grammes of fat monthly,
300 grammes of sugar monthly,
half a litre of milk daily.

This additional ration is raised from the sixth month of pregnancy and for the period of nursing for a maximum of one year to:

600 grammes of fat monthly,
600 grammes of sugar monthly,
1 litre of milk daily;

- c) in a normal pregnancy the mother receives leave on full average pay for five weeks before and six weeks after delivery. This period is extended for two further weeks in the case of abnormal deliveries or the birth of twins etc.;
- d) pregnant women and nursing mothers may not be dismissed or transferred to a lower paid job, without their permission, from the third month of pregnancy until the end of the sixth week after delivery;
- e) overtime work and Sunday work is prohibited for pregnant women from the beginning of the fourth month of pregnancy, and for nursing mothers;
- f) the social insurance covers the entire cost of delivery;
- g) an extra coal ration is granted for each birth;
- h) a grant of 50 marks for baby clothes is given to the young mother;
- i) special rest homes are provided for pregnant women and the stay in these is free;
- k) every pregnant woman can participate in free practical and theoretical courses in child care and feeding.

2. May pregnancy be interrupted?

Since there is no unemployment in the German Democratic Republic and since every possible care is extended to the children this question can only be decided on the basis of the health of the woman and support for a rising birth rate. Interruption of pregnancy is thus only allowed when the health of the pregnant woman or her life would be seriously endangered.

A decision in such cases is made by a medical commission under the chairmanship of the district doctor, consisting of a

woman's specialist, other specialists if necessary, a social service worker representing the health services and a representative of the district group of the Democratic Women's League.

3. Are there children's allotments?

Apart from the grant of 50 marks for each child, special allotments are paid for the third and each subsequent child. The allotments are:

- on the birth of the third child, a special grant of 100 marks;

- on the birth of the fourth child, a special grant of 250 marks;

- on the birth of each subsequent child, a special grant of 500 marks.

On the birth of the sixth child, the President of the Republic extends his patronage, upon application; the child receives a savings book with a first payment of 100 marks and a complete set of baby clothes.

Mothers with more than three children receive regular children's allotments, amounting to 20 marks monthly for the fourth child and 25 marks monthly for each subsequent child. This allotment is paid until the child completes its fourteenth year.

4. Are children of unmarried mothers at a disadvantage?

Article 33 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic states: "Birth to unmarried parents may not be the cause of disadvantage either to the child or to his parents".

The birth of a child to an unmarried mother is no longer a stain, and the unmarried mother has full parental rights. In order to help an unmarried mother to carry out her parental duties a "guardian" can be appointed to deal with all questions of parental care. The child has the same claim for support upon the relatives of its parents as any other child has against the relatives of its father and mother. The child is heir of its mother and her relatives in the same way as any other child. If the child is not of age, or incapable of work upon the death of the father or the relatives of the father who are liable for support, it becomes the heir just like a legitimate child.

5. Are mothers forced to place their children in a children's home?

Of course not. Article 31 of the Constitution of the German Democratic Republic states: "The education of children to

mentally and physically fitted persons in the spirit of democracy is the natural right of the parents and the supreme duty of the parents towards society."

(More details on home and school are given in the chapter "The Educational System in the German Democratic Republic").

Women in the family

1. Has the family been abolished in the German Democratic Republic?

On the contrary. Article 30 of the Constitution states: "Marriage and family are the basis of social life. They are under the protection of the state."

Any form of propaganda for decadent developments like so-called "free love" common in the bourgeois-capitalist world is unconstitutional and therefore not permitted. The organisations of the youth and the women and all public institutions aim at achieving education of the young generation to moral cleanliness. All form of pornography in literature, the film and the theatre are prohibited.

2. Does family law ensure equality of the woman in the family?

Yes. In the German Democratic Republic all former laws and ordinances limiting equal rights between men and women in the family have been cancelled.

All issues in the family must be settled by agreement between the husband and wife. Both partners have the right to study and follow a profession and to join a party or organisation. The husband no longer has any right to administer or use the property of his wife. Possession of property remains with the husband and wife respectively. Savings made during the marriage are available to both partners.

The West German Constitution also lays down equal rights for the wife but the new version of a law covering these rights presented to the West German Parliament at the beginning of 1954 actually negates this right. This bill lays down formally that husband and wife have equal rights in all decisions but the law then states:

"... if no agreement is reached then the husband must make the decision."

3. Who educates the children?

This is the task of both husband and wife. The principles of humanity and care for the human being make it necessary to abolish the former idea of "parental force" over the children. The relationship between parents and children consists to-day of the duty of parental care. This consists of the right and the duty of the parents to look after their children and care for their health; to bring up the child as an independent citizen of a democratic state, aware of its responsibilities, a child that loves its homeland and is ready to struggle for peace; to ensure that the child receives professional training according to its abilities and to prepare it for a socially useful activity; to administer the property of the child in the best possible way and to act as the child's legale representative.

The school system appeals to all parents to avoid the false and damaging educational method of corporal punishment.

4. Can you get a divorce?

Yes. If there are serious reasons, which lead the Court to conclude after thorough investigation that the marriage has lost its sense for the couple, for the children and for society, the marriage can be dissolved. Every attempt is made to avoid arbitrary and superficial dissolution of marriages.

5. What support money must be paid in the case of divorce?

The idea of marriage as a means of support is disappearing in the German Democratic Republic as a result of the full equality extended to women. For this reason a judicial ruling on the payment of support is only made if one partner to the marriage is completely or partially unable to earn his or her own living, or to live on reserves. This means that the question of guilt no longer plays a part in divorce cases.

Women and fashions

1. How do women dress in the German Democratic Republic?

In Berlin, Leipzig and all other cities of the German Democratic Republic there are nationally owned and private fashion houses and salons which base their fashions upon fashion journals and experiences of such international centres as Paris, Prague, London and Moscow.

In the German Democratic Republic, as elsewhere, the wishes of the women determine the form taken by the fashions. It must be admitted that at present customers are often very critical of the fashions produced by nationally owned industry, and justified criticism in this respect is encouraged by the Government.

Perlon products made in the German Democratic Republic, both stockings and lingerie, have received international recognition.

The women of the German Democratic Republic do not, however, follow slavishly the extravagant fashions of Paris or New York. They wear at work and recreation the clothes which they feel suit them.

2. What about cosmetics?

The German Democratic Republic has a highly developed cosmetic industry and many modern cosmetic salons.

Every woman has naturally the right to use those cosmetics which she likes. As everywhere in the world a well-groomed woman is more attractive than an untidy one.

Women and sport

What sports facilities are there for women?

In the factory sports groups of the German Democratic Republic about 230,000 women were actively organised in 1953, and in addition 80,000 girls were organised in youth sports groups. In 1954 the number rose to 300,000.

25,537 women have won the sports badge and 42 women have been awarded the title "Master of Sport".

Youth in the German Democratic Republic

1. Is there unemployment among young people?

On the contrary; in September 1953 it could be noted that the number of apprenticeships available in the new apprenticeship year was far larger than the number of pupils leaving school, and this was even more apparent in 1954. In the years since the war, at least 90 per cent of all children leaving school have immediately been apprenticed. The remainder was made up of high school students, technical students and students studying at the workers' and peasants' faculties of the universities. Young people leaving elementary school with an uncompleted education are employed as young workers in the factories and they have the chance there to complete their education in factory evening schools and other evening courses.

2. What jobs are open to young people?

All jobs and professions are open to young people in the German Democratic Republic. The "Law for the Promotion of Youth" lays down the legal measures guaranteeing help for young people and their promotion to responsible positions. Here are some examples:

In the economy there were, in 1953, a total of 4500 young people working in leading positions as factory directors, foremen, department heads, and engineers. Amongst the 573 young people in responsible positions in the chemical industry were one chief director, 14 works directors and 60 responsible functionaries.

1414 young people work as directors, technicians, agronomists and chief bookkeepers in MTS, nationally owned estates and agricultural production cooperatives.

In the transport branch many more than onethousand young people are engine drivers, responsible engineers, and captains of ships. In retail trade many thousands of young people act as branch managers.

6500 young men and women are headmasters and headmistresses in schools.

3. Can young people choose their profession themselves?

Naturally. A free choice of profession is only possible in a country like the German Democratic Republic, where there

is no unemployment and all jobs are open to young people. During the last year of school the pupils visit factories and the factories organise lectures in the schools in order to interest the pupils in their particular trade. In addition, the government authorities for professional training are always ready to give advice.

4. Can young people change their job?

During the apprenticeship period the apprenticeship can be ended by mutual consent.

The apprenticeship agreement can also be ended by the factory or by the apprentice himself, if a reasoned application has been made to the labour department of the district council. The labour department then gives its decision. If no agreement can be reached both partners have the right to appeal to the labour court. If the change of profession offers a greater chance of development for the young person concerned, this change receives governmental support.

5. Is there some form of labour service?

No, but young people regard it as an honour to play a leading part in all voluntary work done by the population, such as the clearance of rubble, marsh drainage etc.

6. How is the training of apprentices organised?

There is a centralised plan for apprentice training, drawn up by the State Secretariat for Professional Training on the basis of the capacity of the various factories and branches of industry, which are also being developed in accordance with plan. The training plans are made in cooperation with the various ministries concerned, the Chambers of Industry and Trade and the Craftsmen's Chambers, and the various trade schools, training departments and apprentices homes are run in accordance with this plan. All large nationally owned factories have large apprentices workshops and technical schools, which give training combining both theoretical and practical instructions.

In 1953 there were 3250 apprentice workshops with 28,000 teachers, 782 factory training schools, 773 general technical and trade schools and 950 apprentice hostels. In 1954 the number had been considerably increased.

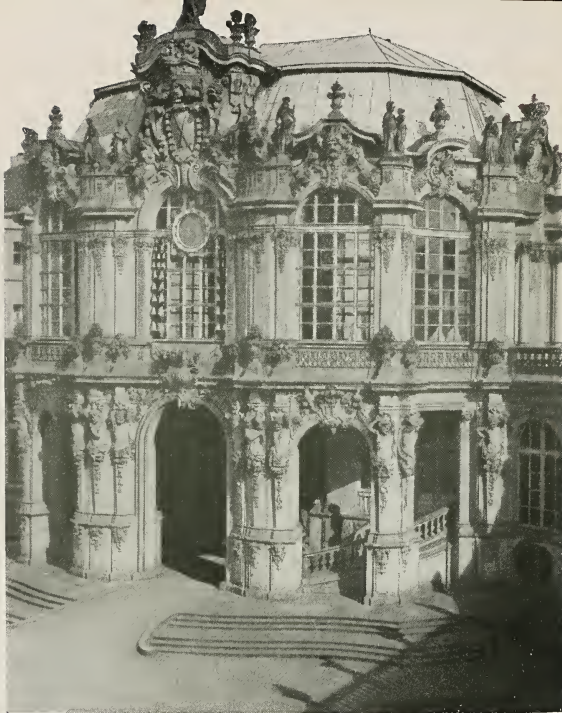
In West Germany on the other hand there are only 1034 apprentice workshop with 3170 teachers. There are 1,600,000 young people unemployed, employed on emergency work, or waiting for apprenticeship.



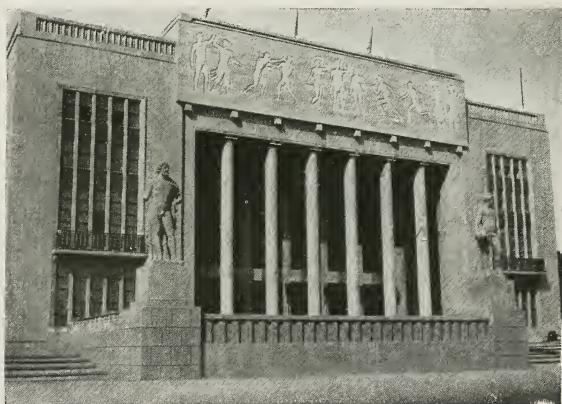
One section of the Karl Marx Bookshop, Stalin Allee, Berlin

*The special shop of the Meissen State Porcelain Manufactory,
Friedrich Strasse, Berlin*





Part of the restored Zwinger Palace, Dresden



Facade of the Sport Hall, Stalin Allee, Berlin



*Willi A. Kleinau,
Holder of the National
Prize, as Othello*

*Wolfgang Langhoff,
Holder of the National
Prize, playing the lead
in "Thomas Muenzer"
by Friedrich Wolf*



*Horst Drinda (right)
in Schiller's
„Don Carlos“*





The Thomaner Choir in the Thomas Church, Leipzig



Part of the Thomaner Choir

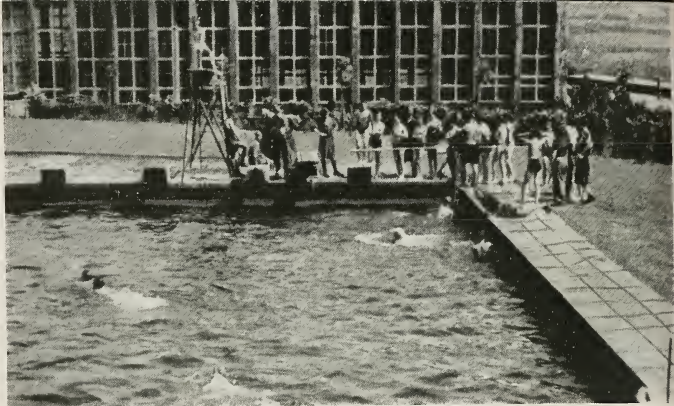
The "Babylon"
Cinema in the
democratic sec-
tor of Berlin
shows a French
film



Werner Peters, Holder of the National Prize, plays the lead
in a film version of "The Kaiser's Lackey" by Heinrich
Mann, produced in the German Democratic Republic

Scene from the
fairy tale film
"Little Muck,"
made in the
German
Democratic
Republic

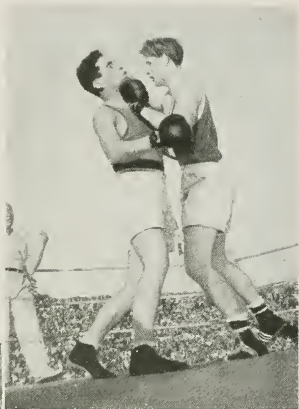




*Works sport in the
nationally-owned
Zeiss factory, Jena*

*"Ulli" Nitschke (left),
European amateur
champion in the half-
heavyweight class*

*Football match
between "Turbine"
Erfurt and the Rio de
Janeiro team
Madureira Athletic in
June 1954*



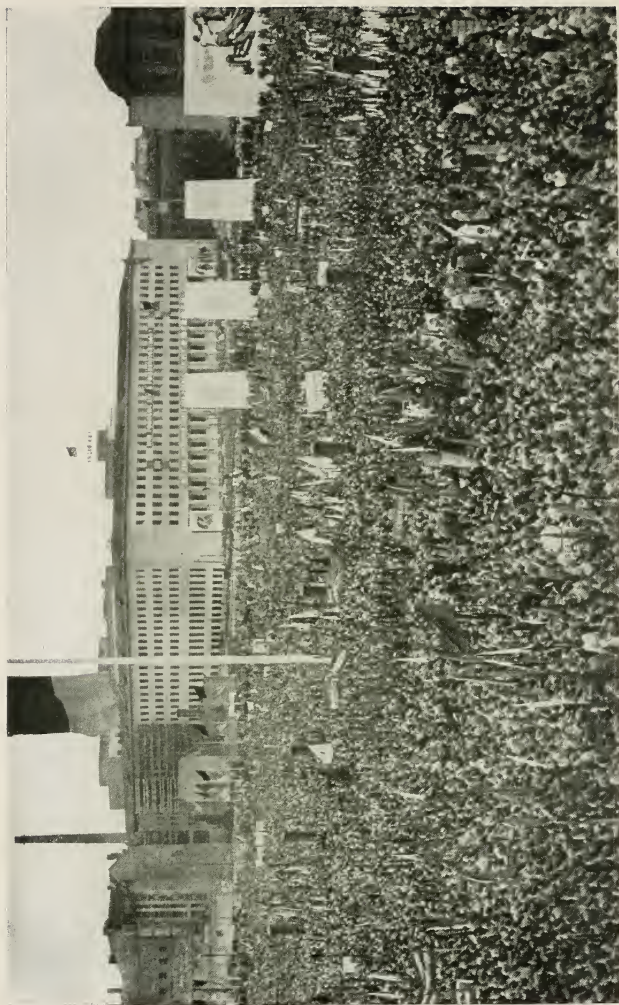
*Ulla Donath-Jurewitz,
holder of the world
record for 400 metres*





The signature of the agreement between the Soviet Government and the Government Delegation of the German Democratic Republic in the Moscow Kremlin, August 22nd, 1953

Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, signs the agreement



Demonstration of peace-loving Berliners on the Marx Engels Platz

The biggest factories in the German Democratic Republic maintain complete apprentice combines including training workshops, technical schools and hostels for apprentices.

Agricultural training schools have been opened in country districts where there are machine and tractor stations, nationally owned estates or a number of production co-operatives.

There are also general trade schools in the countryside, giving instruction in trade, crafts and agricultural pursuits.

Mining training schools are being further developed. These schools give a two-year theoretical course, and during the second year the apprentices get to know their future place of work. In the third year of apprenticeship they then do practical work at the coal face. These mining trade schools also run youth pits and have the usual hostels, sport installations and cultural facilities.

On the railways there are apprentice workshops in the rolling stock-yards, the repair yards, and so on, and non-technical trades are taught at special apprentice stations, apprentice ticket offices and so on.

In retail trade apprentices are trained in special shops in which they do the work under the instruction of trained assistants.

In the building industry the apprentices are organised in special groups which learn the basic rules of the trade at an apprentice building school. After four or six weeks these groups are allotted to special apprentice buildings and there complete their training in the course of productive work.

In 1953 the Government of the German Democratic Republic devoted over 62 million marks for the construction and extension of installations for technical training. In 1954 42.3 million marks in Government funds were allotted for textbooks for technical students and for special educational and domestic grants and hostels for the apprentices.

416.9 million marks were allotted for instructional purposes in the factory, general, agricultural, trade and other technical schools and for postal and evening technical courses.

In 1954 the State devotes 56 million marks for the construction and extension of factory craft, agricultural, trade and general schools and for the building of apprentice hostels.

7. How long does the apprenticeship last?

The normal apprenticeship period is two or three years.

In the following trades the apprenticeship period in nationally owned industry is two years: farming and market gardening,

animal breeding, high sea fishing, bricklaying, concrete worker, tiler, joiner, core moulder, centre lathe operator, milling cutter, planer, building locksmith, mechanic, flax and jute spinner, cotton and worsted yarn spinner, industrial tailor, baker, butcher, skilled salesman, sailor (inland shipping), waiter.

In the following trades the apprenticeship period is two and a half years: coppersmith, boilermaker, pattern maker, motor mechanic, locomotive mechanic, fine mechanic, industrial watchmaker, skilled chemical worker, building carpenter, cabinet maker, technical draughtsman, confectioner, dental mechanic, assistant nurse, baby nurse.

Here are some of the professions with a three year apprenticeship period: miner (coal, lignite, copper, ore, potash and salt), foundry man, steel worker, sheet mill worker, tool maker, moulder, laboratory assistant, most trades in printing, women's tailor, men's tailor, shoemaker, sailor.

8. What do apprentices earn?

The wage rate of apprentices is raised every six months. Apprentices receive the following monthly wages:

Branch	6-months-period	Wage
Coal, lignite, ore, potash (pithead work)	1.	93.— marks
	2.	102.— „
	3.	112.— „
	4.	120.— „
	5.	130.— „
	6.	140.— „
Engineering	1.	90.— „
	2.	95.— „
	3.	100.— „
	4.	110.— „
	5.	120.— „
	6.	130.— „
Health services	1.	60.— „
	2.	72.— „
	3.	84.— „
	4.	97.— „
	5.	110.— „
	6.	125.— „
Textiles, Leather	1.	50.— „
	2.	55.— „
	3.	60.— „
	4.	65.— „
	5.	75.— „
	6.	85.— „

The apprentices, after they successfully concluded their training are given work in accordance with their qualification, and paid according to the job.

9. Do young workers get lower wages?

There is no difference between the wages paid to younger and older workers. Young workers, whether male or female, receive equal pay for equal work.

10. What holidays do apprentices and young workers receive?

Young people up to the age of 16 receive holidays of 21 working days and those up to 18 receive 18 working days. In various branches of industry involving physically heavy work or work dangerous to health (chemical industry, glass blowers, mining etc.) the young people receive additional holidays.

11. Are there any special protective provisions for young workers?

The "Decree on the Protection of Working Strength" lays down the special measures to be taken with regard to young workers, and the trade unions and the Free German Youth supervise the carrying out of this decree.

Young people up to the age of 16 work only 7 hours daily and up to the age of 18 they work 7½ hours daily.

There is a special list of jobs on which young people may not be employed, just as there is a list of occupations in which women may not be employed. This list lays down 13 types of work forbidden for young people under 17 and 22 jobs prohibited for young people under 19.

Here for example are the mining jobs which are prohibited for young people:

Young workers under 17 may not be employed down the pit.

Young people under 19 may not be employed on the following jobs: hoisting engineers on cages used for miners, hoisting bridge engineers, ventilation man, and other very responsible jobs (all these jobs may only be undertaken in a trainee capacity and with regard to the special conditions laid down in this respect).

Completely banned is heavy work involving lifting, carrying and moving through muscular strength. Young people up to the age of 17 may not do such jobs involving weights of over 10 kilogrammes and young people up to 19 such jobs involving weights over 15 kilogrammes.

The factory directors or factory owners are obliged to provide medical inspection at the commencement of work and at fixed periods for all young workers. If the medical inspection shows danger to health in any case, then the young person concerned must be given other work in the same factory or must be apprenticed in a different job.

Youth recreation

1. Are there youth hostels in the German Democratic Republic?

In 1953 there were 210 youth hostels and excursion huts and 238 other hostels in the villages and towns of the German Democratic Republic. During 1954 a further 30 youth hostels were provided by the town and village authorities and 5 of the existing youth hostels were extended to serve as excursion centres.

The state budget for 1954 provided 18 million marks to help run the existing youth homes and club rooms, youth hostels and to help cultural youth work.

2. Are only members of the Free German Youth allowed to make excursions and use the youth hostels?

No. All youth hostels and all other youth installations described in this chapter are available for all young people without exception.

Youth hostels and similar installations are supported by the state budget. For this reason the charge for a bed is extremely low: 0.25 marks per night for children, school children, students and apprentices and 0.50 marks per night for all other excursionists.

Special excursion homes set up by town and village councils are even cheaper. Here children, school children, students and apprentices pay only 0.10 marks per night and all other excursionists 0.25 mark per night.

On the railways excursion groups receive a 50 per cent reduction for trips of up to 100 kilometres and a 75 per cent reduction for trips of over 101 kilometres.

In 1954 the Government provided funds which enabled 75 per cent of all high school students to take part in excursions.

Apprentices too receive help from the trade unions in making excursions.

In 1954 the Free German Trade Union movement, with the help of the Government, ran youth camps for 42,000 young people.

3. Can excursionists go where they want?

Naturally. Hikers and other excursionists can visit all parts of the Republic and use all the rivers, lakes etc. The young sportsmen of the German Democratic Republic are doing all they can to ensure that the unnatural limitations provided by the zonal frontiers between East and West Germany should be abolished as soon as possible. (The question of sport for young people is dealt with in the section "Sport".)

4. Are there youth clubs?

There are 53 big youth club houses in the German Democratic Republic equipped with meeting rooms, club rooms, table tennis rooms, libraries, chess, music and reading rooms, facilities for amateur dramatics, choirs and photographic circles, lantern lectures and dancing classes.

In addition there were over 700 youth homes and nearly 10,000 youth club rooms in 1953 and 2000 more were provided during 1954. These figures do not include the club houses, youth homes and youth club rooms of the big nationally owned factories.

Most of these homes and club rooms are run and administered by the young people themselves and they provide regular lectures, discussions, book discussions, club evenings, amateur dramatics and folk dance groups, dances, table tennis tournaments and study groups for art, music etc.

It is not necessary to be member of any organisation in order to take part in these activities and all activities are provided free of charge.

5. Is modern dancing allowed?

Naturally. Dance halls are generally very full and in those places where the old dance halls were destroyed in the war new ones are being built.

The young workers of the German Democratic Republic show, however, little understanding for Americanised "Jam Sessions", "spivy" clothing and so on, and they themselves take steps to prevent any such activities in public places. Legal regulations in this respect are not necessary.

6. Are there books and newspapers for young people?

There is a youth daily newspaper ("Junge Welt", the central organ of the Free German Youth) and many other newspapers and magazines, specially provided for all young people and all interests.

The students have the newspapers "Forum" and "Weltstudentennachrichten". The youth movement has the magazine "Junge Generation". For the Pioneer movement there is "Der junge Pionier" and "Der Pionierleiter". School children have "Die Schulpost" and "ABC-Zeitung". For those interested in amateur dramatics and folk art there is the magazine "Fröhlich sein und singen". "Neues Leben" caters for youth clubs, "Landjugend" for the country youth, and "Wissenschaft und Fortschritt" and "Jugend und Technik" for young people interested in science and technology.

Two publishing houses "Kinderbuch-Verlag" and "Neues Leben" provide children's books and youth books, and the other publishers naturally also provide books interesting to young people.

Youth and the State

1. When can young people vote?

All young people over the age of 18 can vote and over the age of 21 they can be elected to all state functions.

From June 27th to 29th 1954 a plebiscite was held on the question: "Are you in favour of a peace treaty and the withdrawal of the occupation troops, or in favour of EDC, the Bonn Treaty, and the retention of occupation troops for 50 years?" Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 could also take part in this plebiscite. A total of 572,263 young people voted (98.3 per cent of those entitled to vote) and 550,704 of them (97.2 per cent of the valid votes) voted for a peace treaty. The young people who have the right to vote from the age of 18 had a considerable share in the overwhelming success of the general elections held on October 17th 1954 in the German Democratic Republic and the great majority of the young voters gave their full support to the policy of the Government.

2. Are there young people in the administration?

There are very many young people in the administration. In 1954 a total of 56 young people under the age of 25 were elected to the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic and there are about 8,000 young people in the elected

bodies of the counties, districts and municipalities. 35 per cent of all members of the state administration are young people and about 870 young people occupy leading positions. For example Rudi Wiesner became State Secretary for professional training at the age of 24. 22.4 per cent of the members of the county councils and 26.3 per cent of the members of the district councils are young people.

1405 young people are acting as mayors.

3. Why is there only one youth organisation in the German Democratic Republic?

The Free German Youth accepts as members young people of all opinions, religions and occupations. In 1945, at the end of the war, the democratic parties and organisations refrained from establishing their own youth organisations. In doing this they showed that they had learned a lesson from the past history of the German youth movement in which the splintering of the young generation had always had unhappy results. Only the unity of the youth movement can provide effective representation for the interests of the young people — the maintenance of peace, economic and political equal rights and the right to happiness.

4. Is the Free German Youth a state organisation?

No. The principles, aims and statutes of the Free German Youth are laid down by the "Parliament of the Free German Youth", which is the democratically elected supreme body of the organisation. The leading organs at all levels are elected and not named or supervised by any state organisation. The Free German Youth has its own fraction in the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic. The Free German Youth has taken and is taking an active part in working out and carrying out the laws guaranteeing to the youth in the German Democratic Republic a social position and opportunities for development, which have never been known before in German history.

5. Are religious young people persecuted?

Of course not. A large proportion of the members and officials of the Free German Youth belong to various religious bodies. Many young people, who belong to the "Young Congregation" — groups of young church members organised by the local pastors — are also active members of the Free German Youth.

6. Is there a crime wave amongst the youth in the German Democratic Republic?

Youth crime has declined by 50 per cent since 1948 and is now well below the pre-war level. The explanation of this is that there is no youth unemployment in the German Democratic Republic and no pornographic and criminal literature and films. When in a few cases groups of young rowdies have appeared in some large towns and in the democratic sector of Berlin, it has been ascertained in almost all cases that they had been reading such literature smuggled in from West Germany or West Berlin or that they have been visiting West Berlin cinemas and doubtful dance halls. In West Germany on the other hand, youth crime rose between 1948 and 1951 by 64 per cent and is to-day well above the pre-war figure.

7. Are there special young people's courts?

Yes. Legislation dealing with young people in the German Democratic Republic lays its main emphasis not upon punishment but upon education. The following educational measures are provided for: first a warning; second the laying down of special conditions; third family education with the laying down of special conditions; fourth probation and fifth special hostels. These measures of education can be laid down in the sentence passed by the youth courts and can be continued until the completion of the 20th year of age.

The special hostels for young people who have offended against the law have workshops which provide the young people with the chance of learning a proper trade.

Prison sentences are only passed against young people who have committed a serious offence. The minimum sentence in such cases is three months and the maximum sentence is ten years.

The Ministry of Justice arranges frequent discussion evenings in factories and schools at which leading lawyers explain the laws to the young people and thus help to prevent youth crime.

Schools in the German Democratic Republic

I. Elementary and high schools

1. What does school cost?

Elementary schooling is free for all children. 25 per cent of the children receive their schoolbooks free as their property and another 50 per cent of the children receive an average of half the books free. In addition every school provides free from its library the literary books to be read in class. More than three quarters of the high school students, including the children of workers and small and middle peasants, together with orphans, have no school fees to pay. These children also receive all their books free and in addition stipends of up to 60 marks monthly.

The 10,000 schools of the German Democratic Republic own more than 12,000 radios. Every second school has a film projector and every fifth school a wire recording apparatus.

In 1954 the State provided 849,667,000 marks for the general school system. The expenditure per elementary pupil amounted to 334 marks and per high school pupil to 1,208 marks annually. The average expenditure per elementary pupil in West Germany was about 170 marks. In Bavaria the Bavarian government expended 200 marks per elementary pupil and 630 marks per high school pupil. In North-Rhine-Westphalia, also in West Germany, the budget provides for an expenditure of 0.48 marks daily on each pupil; the same budget provides 1.60 marks daily for looking after each police dog.

Since 1945 the nationally owned publishing house "Volk und Wissen" has produced 125 million school books.

In 1953 the following books were provided:

for elementary schools	15,228,000 school books
for high schools	3,316,000 school books
for trade schools	1,717,000 school books

2. How is the school system organised?

In the German Democratic Republic the educational system is planned from the nursery school to the university. Pupils are selected for high schools and universities not on the basis of the ability of their parents to pay but on the capabilities of the pupil. The children of workers and peasants receive spe-

cial support. This support does not react unfavourably on the children of the middle classes, however. As a result of the increase in the size of the high schools more middle class children are able to attend high school to-day than ever before in Germany history. All schools in the Republic up to and including the university are open to all children in accordance with their capabilities.

The democratic school system is organised as follows:

children aged 3 to 6: nursery school (voluntary)
" " 6 to 14: elementary school (compulsory)
" " 14 to 17: trade school (compulsory) or,
" " 14 to 18: high school (voluntary).

After the pupil has completed his education at the trade school or high school he can go on to training school or university.

3. What pre-school facilities are provided?

Large numbers of nursery schools are available for children between the ages of 3 and 6. All large nationally owned factories have their own nursery schools which care for the children of working mothers. Special harvest nursey schools are provided in the villages at those times of year when there is particularly much to be done in the fields. The state nursery schools not only look after the children but also provide for their education. Trained teachers prepare the children for their later schooling. The nursery schools are well provided with toys, educational toys and games equipment.

The development of pre-school care in the German Democratic Republic can be seen from the following statistics:

in 1947 there were 1943 nursery schools with 100,831 children

in 1953 there were 6810 nursery schools with 313,377 children.

In 1953 the State provided 98,120,000 marks for nursery schools and weekly homes for children.

In 1954 the State provided 166,600,000 marks for nursery schools, harvest nursery schools, factory nursery schools and weekly homes for children.

A further 114,000,000 marks were provided for accomodating children in children's homes and for general youth assistance. 54 million marks have been provided for extending the general school system and pre-school installations and children's homes.

Attendance at nursery schools is completely voluntary.

4. How many pupils attend high schools?

In 1946 there were 75,000 high school pupils; in 1953 the figure had risen to 124,000. More than 20 per cent of the elementary pupils go on to high school, compared to only 5 per cent in the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic. In 1954 in the German Democratic Republic more than every 5th pupil from the final class of elementary school went on to high school. In West Germany this chance was only given to every 20th pupil. In the German Democratic Republic, with its 18 million inhabitants, about 20,000 children matriculated in 1953. In West Germany, with 44 million inhabitants, only 29,000 children matriculated.

Between 1946 and 1953 the number of high schools in the German Democratic Republic increased from 327 to 618.

Pupils' hostels are provided by all the larger high schools. The percentage of the children of workers and peasants attending high school rose from 19 per cent in 1945 to 47 per cent in 1953. In West Germany on the other hand only 4 or 5 per cent of the high school pupils are the children of workers and peasants. The high schools provide children, according to their capabilities, with either a mathematical-scientific education, modern languages, or classical languages. The foreign languages taught are Russian, English, French, Latin and Greek and in some schools Czech and Polish.

5. Can apprentices and young workers matriculate?

Talented apprentices and young workers who wish to study at the university have the chance of reaching matriculation level at the Workers' and Peasants' Faculties attached to the universities.

In addition, apprentices and young workers have the opportunity of attending trade schools. In 1953, about 49,000 pupils were attending trade schools, 64 per cent of them were children of workers and peasants. More than 45,000 pupils, over 90 per cent of the total, received stipends.

6. Are there enough class rooms?

The State budget provides many millions of marks every year for school buildings. Many schools were destroyed during the war, particularly in the towns, but the worst damage has already been overcome. In addition, many improvements have been made. The new schools contain not only the usual class rooms and teachers' rooms but also specialised instruction rooms, dining rooms, shower baths, club rooms and cloak rooms. New gymnasiums are being built every year as part of a special programme.

In 1946 an average of 42.1 pupils were being educated in one class, but to-day this figure has been reduced to less than 29 pupils per class in the elementary schools and 26 in the high schools.

In West Germany the average size of classes is 43 pupils. In the province of Schleswig Holstein there are still many classes of between 60 and 70 children.

7. Have country schools been improved?

Schools in the country side have been improved out of all comparison. In olden days one-class elementary schools were provided in villages, a typical sign of the neglect of the country population. In the pre-1914 Reichstag the big landowner Herr Oldenburg-Januschau declared once: "They learn enough for pulling turnips."

In 1945 there were still 4114 one-class elementary schools. By 1954 the number of such schools had been reduced to 98 by the provision of modern multi-class central schools for a group of villages. Only 0.1 per cent of the entire number of pupils now attend one-class schools. The number of such schools has decreased from about 40 per cent of all schools to less than 1 per cent.

To improve the teaching in the remaining country schools which have not been centralised, the number of pupils per teacher has been fixed at 25. In cases where there are more than 25 pupils a second teacher is employed. The curriculum of the country schools is to-day the same as that of the town schools. In many country-centres high schools have been established.

In 1926 13 per cent of all children in Prussia attended one-class country schools and in 1951 West Germany had no fewer than 5552 such schools. This number is still rising, partly as the result of the splitting of the school system according to religion, and in one year the number of one-class schools in West Germany increased by 308. 20 per cent of all West German schools are to-day one class-schools.

8. Are there enough teachers?

The number of teachers in the general school system is steadily increasing. In 1946 there were 63,707 teachers and in 1954 there were 78,800 teachers. In 1948 there was only an average of 0.92 teachers for each class in the general school system, but by 1953 this average had risen to 1.16 teachers per class.

9. Can teachers use corporal punishment?

No. Corporal punishment for school children of all ages is strictly prohibited, since it is contrary to the educational principles of the democratic school. The aim of the democratic school system is to produce self-confident and free citizens, not obedient lackeys. The schools appeal to the parents to refrain from every form of corporal punishment.

10. Have the parents any influence on the school education of their children?

It is impossible to attain a healthy mental and moral education for children without comradely cooperation between the parents and the school. This cooperation takes the following forms in the German Democratic Republic:

1. Parents' committees, which support the activities of the teachers and the schools. The parents' committees are elected at general meetings of all parents. The representative of the parents' committee, together with the teachers, constitutes the pedagogical council of the school.
2. The parents' discussion group, which meets monthly to consider modern teaching methods. These groups are arranged by the Democratic Womens' League.
3. The parents' class meetings in which the parents discuss with the class teacher the work and development of their children. At longer intervals there are parents' meetings for the parents of all pupils in the school.

In addition the teachers, in order to improve their educational work, visit the parents in their homes to see the conditions in which the children live.

11. Must school children be members of the "Young Pioneers"?

The Young Pioneers organisation is purely voluntary. At present about 60 per cent of the pupils between the ages of 6 and 14 are members of the Young Pioneers. Children who do not belong to the organisation are not put at any disadvantage. More and more children are joining the Young Pioneer organisation because they find that it helps them to learn and gives them fine opportunities for sport and play.

12. Are children's special talents encouraged?

Naturally. In the school all children receive the same broad general education. They can follow their special interests and develop their talents in study groups outside school hours. In

1953 there were 33,404 study groups in the schools of the German Democratic Republic, including groups for model building, artistic handicrafts, photography, technology, agrobiology, literature, music, folk dancing, amateur dramatics, shorthand and many others.

In 1954 the number of such groups had risen to 34,600 and more than 600,000 pupils were taking part. In addition, there are sports groups for all the different sports, 84 pioneer palaces and pioneer houses, 197 clubs for young technicians, 22 clubs for young naturalists and 40 clubs for young tourists.

These circles and clubs are led by experienced teachers or by specialists who are paid for their work. All such clubs are voluntary and may be attended whether or not the pupil is a member of the Young Pioneers.

In 1954 the Government provided 77 million marks for the work of the Pioneer Houses, the young technicians, the young naturalists, the young tourists, and the other groups for work and sport.

13. Is religious instruction given?

The right to religious instruction is guaranteed by the Constitution. The teachers for this instruction are provided by the church and rooms for this instruction are provided by the school. The parents decide whether or not the child should have religious instruction.

14. What recreation possibilities do the children have?

Children who are sick or ailing are sent away for free cures by the social insurance system. In the school holidays all children have the chance of attending holiday camps, holiday games and holiday tours. Children from the big industrial centres receive preference in the camps on the Baltic Coast or in the mountains. Participation in the holiday camps, games and tours, is voluntary for all children.

In 1953, 91 per cent of all school pupils took part in the holiday campaign which was organised under the title "Happy Holidays for all Children".

In 1954 80,000 children visited central pioneer camps and 750,000 children went on tours and excursions. In addition 20,000 children from West Germany spent their holidays in camps in the German Democratic Republic in 1954.

The Government provides between 25 million and 28 million marks yearly for children's holidays. In West Germany almost no money is provided by the Government for this purpose.

In the Pioneer Republic "Wilhelm Pieck" on the Werbellin lake new buildings were put up in 1954 with accomodation for 240 children, making it possible for 1120 children to spend their holidays there at one time.

II. Universities

1. Who can study in the German Democratic Republic?

Every talented young person with the necessary basic education can study at the university. The children of workers and peasants attend the Workers' and Peasants' Faculty in order to reach university standard and matriculate. A total of 85,000 students were studying at the universities and other institutes of higher education in the German Democratic Republic in 1954/55.

It is naturally not necessary to be member of a party or a youth organisation in order to be admitted to the university.

2. How many universities are there?

In summer 1953 there were six universities and seventeen other higher educational institutes in the German Democratic Republic. By the beginning of the study year 1954/55, fourteen new institutes including three medical academies had been opened, including:

Institute for heavy engineering, Magdeburg,
Institute for engineering, Karl Marx Stadt,
Institute for electro-technology, Ilmenau.

In addition, nine other institutes of the same character have begun instruction, including:

Institute for agronomy, Neugattersleben,
Institute for zoological technology, Güstrow/Schabernack,
Six institutes for pedagogics.

66 million marks were provided in 1954 for the further development of the six universities and the Dresden technical college. This money will be used to provide the following additional places:

2500 places for resident students,
2570 places in lecture rooms,
2060 study places,
260 dwellings for agricultural practitioners.

A large part of these places have already been provided.

3. Can all subjects be studied in the German Democratic Republic?

All branches of science and knowledge may be studied in the German Democratic Republic.

The following subjects are taught:

Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, pharmacology, biology, meteorology, geophysics, geography, geology, mineralogy, metallurgics etc.

Technical Sciences

Mining and smelting, engineering, electro-technology, fine mechanics/optics, shipbuilding, transport, building, surveying, engineering economics etc.

Agricultural and Forestry Science / Veterenary Medicine

Agricultural science, nursery gardening, brewing, distilling, sugar technology, fishing, forestry, veterinary medicine etc.

Medicine

Social hygiene, surgery, internal medicine, dermatology, gynecology, children's medicine, jaw surgery, jaw orthopedics etc.

Economics and Law

Plan economy, industrial economy, labour economy and trade economy, international law, criminal law, civil law and economic law etc.

Philosophy, Languanges, History and Arts

Philosophy, psychology, Germanistics, Anglistics/Americanistics, Slavistics, Romanistics, classical philology, oriental studies, Indology, Finnish-Ugrian philology, history, ethnology, classical archeology, history of art, musical science etc.

Theology

Church history, Old and New Testament theology, Christian archeology and church art etc. (This answers the questions as to whether it is possible to study theology in the German Democratic Republic. All universities have a theological faculty.)

Graphic and Applied Art, Dramatics and Music

Painting, graphic art, sculpture, industrial art, interior decorating, theatrical art etc.

Dramaturgics, theater direction, criticism, acting, film art, ballet dancing etc.

Composition, musical theory, musical direction, church music, school music, folk music, acoustics, singing and instrumental music etc.

Physical training and Sport

Theory and practice of physical training, anatomy/physiology, development physiology etc.

Football, hand ball, rowing, light athletics, fencing etc.

Pedagogics

Pedagogic system, teaching methods, music and art teaching, training of specialised teachers, specialist pedagogics for blind, deaf and dumb etc.

4. What does it cost to study?

In the German Democratic Republic no student needs to work his way through university by beating carpets and private tutoring. The stipend holders pay no study fees.

5. Who receives stipends

Every university and institute of higher learning has a stipend commission which selects those who should receive stipends.

The stipend is fixed at a figure which makes successful studies possible.

Two special stipends, the Wilhelm Pieck stipend of 300 marks monthly, and the Karl Marx stipend of 450 marks monthly, have been created by the Government of the German Democratic Republic for students who do outstanding work, particularly in applying the most modern scientific methods in their studies.

In case of sickness the student receives his full stipend for a period of 13 weeks. All students are fully insured under the social insurance system.

In 1953 a total of 120 million marks were distributed in the form of stipends to students at the universities and institutes of higher learning. In 1954, as a result of the steadily increasing study successes, this sum was raised to 147 million marks.

For each student the following sums were spent by the state:

1951: 4125 marks

1952: 5229 marks

1953: 6200 marks

In West Germany 1776 marks was spent on each student in 1951 and 1800 marks in 1952.

6. How do the students live?

There is residential accomodation for about 15,000 university students. Additional modern student hostels are being built near to the universities and institutes and a large number of new places were provided in the first half of 1954. Students pay 10 marks monthly, if they have a room to themselves and 6 marks if they share a room.

7. It is possible to study abroad?

Students from the German Democratic Republic are studying in Moscow, Leningrad, Peking, Warsaw, Prague and other universities in the People's Democracies. The students attend these universities on the basis of agreements concluded between the educational authorities of the German Democratic Republic, the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies.

All requests from the German Democratic Republic for a further extension of the exchange of students have been taken into account and the number of students studying abroad is steadily rising.

8. What are the chances of obtaining work after graduation?

In the German Democratic Republic there is not, as in West Germany, a difficulty in obtaining positions for graduates. The difficulty is in meeting the request for graduates from industry, agriculture and the scientific and cultural institutions.

9. What do young graduates earn?

A young scientific assistant receives a basic starting salary of 650 marks in the German Democratic Republic. In West Germany a young scientific graduate thinks himself lucky if he can earn 80 or a 100 marks.

A special measure never before taken in Germany is the creation of the post of "scientific aspirant" in the universities and institutes of the German Democratic Republic. This is intended as a step towards the systematic preparation of young scientists for a university career. This is divided into two steps: for three years for candidates for a doctor's degree, who receive a basic stipend of 450 marks (in Berlin 500 marks) and for three or four years for lecturers, who receive a basic stipend of 500 marks (in Berlin 550 marks).

In addition young graduates can become aspirants apart from their work as assistants, or other work. These aspirants too receive special concessions.

Science and art in the German Democratic Republic

I. Science

1. Do scientists have freedom to carry on research in the German Democratic Republic?

Every scientist has the right to carry on research in his special field and receives generous assistance from the state budget in his research. The relationship between scientists in East and in West Germany has in very many cases provided the foundation for the themes of research undertaken. The commission for religious history in the late classical period has received the recognition of West German experts for its research in this field. Other research work which is based on inspirations of the past is the work on Grimms's Dictionary; a dictionary of medieval latin; the Monumenta Germaniae Historica; the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae; the Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum; and the Annual Reports on German History.

2. Are scientists strictly supervised?

Naturally not. The stories about the strict supervision over scientists form part of the stupid lying campaign carried on in Western countries by enemies of the German Democratic Republic. The best proof of the fact that scientists are neither supervised nor hindered in their work by the state or the occupation authorities is that scientists, who had moved to West Germany under the influence of Western propaganda, have since applied to be allowed to return to the German Democratic Republic to continue their work here.

An increasing number of scientists travel regularly from the German Democratic Republic to conferences in West Germany and Western countries and very many scientists from West Germany have visited the German Democratic Republic, both to attend conferences and to consult with their colleagues here. The presence of scientists from the German Democratic Republic at West German conferences show the falsity of stories about "restrictions".

3. Is Soviet science "imposed" upon scientists in the German Democratic Republic?

No. Scientists in the German Democratic Republic are not in any way forced to copy the methods of Soviet Science. Many

scientists of international renown are carrying on their researches in their fields with methods very different from those used in the Soviet Union. Examples can be quoted in the fields of Genetics, Pre-History and Early History and others. The older generation of scientists pass on their experiences to the younger generation and there is no state influence upon this in either teaching or research. Many scientists are, however, naturally very interested in learning from the methods of Soviet scientists and applying these lessons in their own fields. They do this to the extent which they themselves consider proper and without any attempt by the state to lay down what they should do.

4. Can scientists obtain literature from West Germany and Western countries?

Yes. The German Academy of Science for instance has received from the Government a grant of 380,000 marks in foreign currency for this purpose and other institutions and industrial undertakings also received large allotments of West German or foreign currency. Very large sums amounting to millions of marks have been made available for these purposes and the allotments are rising considerably from year to year.

5. Is historical research the reserve of members of the Socialist Unity party?

Historical research may naturally be undertaken by scientists who do not belong to this party. Here are the names of some historians in this category:

Professor Unverzagt, member of the Academy of Sciences, (pre-history and early history),

Professor Hohl, member of the Academy of Sciences, (classical history),

Professor Hartmann, member of the Academy of Sciences, (orientalist),

Professor Grapow, member of the Academy of Sciences, (egyptologist).

6. Can scientists from the German Democratic Republic travel abroad?

Yes. An expedition organised by Professor Hoffmeister, astronomer and member of the Academy of Sciences, recently visited South-West Africa. Another expedition was sent to

Sweden in June 1954 to observe the eclipse of the sun. In the course of 1954 another group of scientists visited the Sahara to carry out geological studies and other scientists have attended conferences and congresses in Switzerland, Denmark, France, Holland and other countries.

7. How big are teachers' salaries?

In the German Democratic Republic teachers' salaries have so far been raised three times. The monthly starting salary of a young teacher in a senior class is 405 marks and naturally men and women teachers receive the same pay. Supplements are paid for special work such as teaching in combined classes, the supervision of study groups and work in several schools. Wage tax is in any case low but teachers receive a special tax allowance to enable them to buy books, which are also very cheap. Special pensions have been established for retired teachers and teachers unable to carry on their profession. Male teachers over 65 and female teachers over 60 receive a special pension amounting to between 60 and 80 per cent of their former salary. If they remain at work after this age, they receive their normal old age pension, their teachers' pension and their normal salary.

The following table shows the way in which teachers' salaries have been increased:

	monthly salary before 1945 marks	monthly salary before January 1953 marks	Monthly salary today
Elementary school teacher, single	270.34	392.17	415.—
Elementary school teacher, married 2 chil- dren	439.34	581.—	595.—
Elementary school teacher, married, high seniority	482.67	681.67	695.—
High school teacher, mar- ried	656.67	656.67	730.—
Teacher in teachers' trai- ning college, married . .	—	715.—	825.—

(The salaries vary according to years of seniority and the examples given above are typical average cases.)

It must be emphasized that a broadly based system of supplements means that many teachers, particularly teachers in country schools, receive considerably higher net salaries.

8. What salaries do doctors receive?

The salaries for doctors, dentists, pharmacists and other skilled workers in the state medical system are classed in 12 salary groups. The salaries paid were raised by ministerial order on August 6th 1953 and are at present as follows:

Salary group I (section 1)	620 to 685 marks
Salary group I (section 2)	686 to 805 marks
Salary group II	810 to 870 marks
Salary group III	875 to 940 marks
Salary group IV	950 to 1015 marks
Salary group V	1025 to 1090 marks
Salary group VI	1110 to 1175 marks
Salary group VII	1190 to 1260 marks
Salary group VIII	1280 to 1360 marks
Salary group IX	1380 to 1470 marks
Salary group X	1490 to 1570 marks
Salary group XI	1590 to 1670 marks
Salary group XII	1690 to 1790 marks

For reasons of space it is not possible to define the jobs done by doctors falling into the various categories. Here however are examples of the lowest and the highest category.

Salary group I section 1: 620 to 685 marks

Doctors in the first year of their work after taking their degree (internes);

dentists in the first year of their work after taking their degree;

candidate pharmacists.

Salary group XII: 1690 to 1790 marks

Head of the Health Section of a county council;

Director of spas with more than 1000 beds, directors of sanatoria, tuberculosis sanatoria etc. with more than 1300 beds; medical director of Bad Elster state-spa;

Directors of medical research institutes of the Health Ministry in Berlin;

Director of the German Hygiene Museum.

Specialist doctors with special qualifications receive salaries, which in many cases are far higher than those detailed above, under the terms of individual contracts.

9. Can a doctor have a private practice?

Apart from the doctors working in the State Health Service there are also doctors with private practices. The great majority of such doctors do some work in addition for the state health services.

II. Graphic Arts

1. Are art works which were destroyed in the war being restored?

The devastating American air-raid on February 13th 1945 destroyed many cultural monuments in Dresden, including the Hofkirche, the Gallery and the Zwinger-Palace. The Zwinger-Palace was 70 per cent destroyed in this raid. The work of restoration began in 1945 and within the next two years the restoration will be completed.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is very concerned about the restoration of all cultural monuments in so far as this can be undertaken. Here are some of these monuments which have already been restored or upon which work is being done:

1. St. Hedwigs Church, Berlin. 80 per cent destroyed. Restoration almost completed.
2. State Opera Unter den Linden, Berlin. 70 per cent destroyed. The restoration and extension of this building will be completed in 1955.
3. Zeughaus Unter den Linden, Berlin. 70 per cent destroyed. Restoration in progress since 1948. Will be completed in two years.
4. Schinkel Building Academy, Berlin. 50 per cent destroyed. Restoration work under way since 1952.
5. Catholic church (former Hofkirche), Dresden. 40 per cent destroyed. Restoration nearly completed.
6. Halberstadt Cathedral. 30 per cent destroyed. Restoration work under way since 1946.
7. Magdeburg Cathedral. 30 per cent destroyed. Restoration work since 1950, almost completed.
8. Stendal Cathedral. Restoration completed 1952.
9. Jacobi Church, Stralsund. 60 per cent destroyed. Restoration work since 1952.
10. Goethe House, Weimar. 30 per cent destroyed. Restored 1949.
11. Schiller House, Weimar. 30 per cent destroyed. Restored in 1946 with Soviet help.
12. Herder Church, Weimar. 60 per cent destroyed. Restored in 1952. Thomas Mann contributed the Goethe-Prize, awarded him by the Government of the German Democratic Republic for the restoration work.
13. Wartburg Castle, Eisenach. Declared a national monument. The deterioration caused by neglect since the

thirties of this century has been removed. Work has now begun on the removal of unscientific restoration work done in 1850. Date for the completion of the restoration not yet fixed.

14. Cathedral Chapter Quedlinburg. War damage caused by American artillery after the Nazi capitulation has been repaired and unscientific restoration work done about 1900 and during the Nazi period has been removed. Work completed in 1953.
15. Barlach Memorial, Güstrow. Restoration completed in 1953.

2. What do artists live on?

Artists earn their living mainly from commissions given them by the State and the large organisations. They help to decorate and furnish public buildings, palaces of culture, cultural clubs, theatres and so on. It is laid down by law that between 1½ and 2 per cent of all building investments should be devoted to artistic decoration.

The building of the Stalin Allee in Berlin has so far cost about 150 million marks. 2 per cent of this sum, that is to say 3 million marks has been used for artistic decoration by painters, sculptors, wrought iron workers and so on.

Artists are naturally at liberty to sell their works to private buyers as well as to the State and social organisations.

3. Why are no abstract paintings to be seen in the German Democratic Republic?

Such pictures are not in any demand since the parasitic section of the population interested in such "works of art" no longer exists here.

4. Are paintings of nudes banned?

Naturally not. At the exhibition "Artists for Peace", held in Berlin in 1952, a female nude was exhibited by Professor Fritz Cremer, member of the Academy of Arts. Classical nudes decorate the front of the German Sport Hall in the Stalin Allee in Berlin. Nudes in painting and sculpture may be seen at many exhibitions, but these nudes are human and beautiful, not distasteful.

III. Theatres and music

1. Are only Soviet plays performed?

No. The majority of plays performed are German. The allegation that only Soviet plays and Russian plays can be seen

in the German Democratic Republic is one of the silly lies spread by enemies of the German Democratic Republic. Here are figures for the plays, operas and so on, performed in the theatrical season 1953/54:

Plays: 102 German plays, 43 Russian and Soviet plays, 21 plays from the British Isles, 15 French, 6 Spanish, 6 Italian, 5 Czechoslovak, 5 American and 4 Austrian. Plays from Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Holland, Greece, Norway and Australia were also performed.

Operas: 52 German, 28 Italian, 8 Russian and Soviet, 7 Czechoslovak, 5 French, and operas from Poland, Holland, Hungary and Britain.

Operettas: 32 German, 22 Austrian, 9 Hungarian, 7 French, 6 Russian and Soviet, and operettas from Switzerland and Czechoslovakia.

2. Are certain classical plays like Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" and "Don Carlos" banned in the German Democratic Republic?

On the contrary. This is another stupid lie. In the theatre season 1952/53 the play "Wilhelm Tell" was performed 163 times, in the theatres at Wismar, Potsdam, Weimar, Bautzen, the Saxon theatres, Karl-Marx-Stadt, Plauen and in the Deutsches Theater in Berlin. The restored Volksbühne Theatre in Berlin was opened in 1954 with a performance of "Wilhelm Tell". Schiller's "Don Carlos" is also performed very frequently and the performance in the Deutsches Theater in Berlin with the actor Horst Drinda in the title role was a great success.

3. Who fixes the theatre programmes?

This is done by the theatre director together with the audiences. Representatives of the mass organisations, particularly the trade unions, and also audience committees advise the theatre directors on the sort of plays they would like to see performed. There is no sort of centralised control of theatre programmes.

4. What sort of plays are not performed in the German Democratic Republic?

Plays which offend against good morals, which picture war as unavoidable or which preach national or racial hatred are not performed in the theatres of the German Democratic Republic.

5. Who can go to the theatre? Can tickets only be obtained through organisations?

Theatre tickets are of course sold freely to all comers. In addition there are special arrangements for providing theatre tickets at cheap prices through trade unions and other organisations.

6. May religious music be performed in the German Democratic Republic?

Religious music and church music is fostered both by the lay authorities and by the ecclesiastical authorities. The religious music of such composers as Handel, Schütz, Bach, Buxtehude, Pepping and others is an important part of the German cultural heritage and is much performed in the German Democratic Republic.

Here are a few examples of notable performances of church music in the past few years:

The Handel Festival 1952/53/54 in Halle;

The Bach Festival in 1952/53 in Leipzig;

The Bach Week in Greifswald;

The Silbermann Celebrations arranged by the Saxon-Lutheran Church in Freiberg, June 1953;

The Church Music Festival in Görlitz from May 2nd to May 10th 1953;

Christmas Music by Schütz in the Afra Church, Meissen; Concerts by the Dresden Kreuz-Choir, directed by Professor Rudolf Mauersberger, in the Karl-Marx-Stadt-district, July 1953;

The 30th German Bach Festival of the New Bach Society from July 3rd to July 6th 1954 in Leipzig under the leadership of Professor Günther Ramin;

Sung Service on July 5th 1953 in the Lutheran Church at Grosspostwitz, lead by the cantors A. Hillmann and R. Jentsch;

A concert of contemporary church music on July 5th 1953 in the Church of St. Laurentius at Lichtenstein (Saxony);

The 3rd Week of Church Music from September 6th to 13th 1953 in Erfurt, arranged by the Association of Evangelical Church Choirs in Erfurt, the Andreas Chamber Music Orchestra and the Erfurt Evangelical Trumpet Choirs;

The Musical Assembly of the Provincial Lutheran Church in Thuringia from September 12th to 15th 1953 in Altenburg, led by Professor Erhard Mauersberger;

Organ Festival in Schwerin from October 1st to 11th 1953 in the Schelf Church, Schwerin, lead by Walter Bruhns; Musical Evensong on the occasion of the harvest festival on October 4th 1953 arranged by the Congregation of St. John the Evangelist in the Evangelical Home, 80 Augustastraße, Berlin, under the leadership of Johann Schultz;

The 85th Organ Evensong in the Marien Church in Berlin on October 5th 1953;

Concert in the Christus Church, Dresden-Strehlen, on October 10th 1953 with the Dresden Symphony Choir by Hans Dieter Pflüger with Hans Hartung on the organ;

Concert of Church Music held by the Lutheran Congregation in Kriebitzsch on October 25th 1953;

Musical Evensong in St. George's Church Schöneck on October 31st 1953, the Reformation Festival;

Musical Evensong for the Reformation Festival in the Johann Sebastian Bach Church in Arnstadt on November 1st 1953;

Max Reger Memorial Festival in the Marien Church, Bergen/Rügen on November 15th 1953;

Memorial Festival in the Moritz Church, Taucha, on November 22nd 1953;

Christmas Festival for Choir and Congregation in the Church at Dresden Leubnitz-Neuostra on December 6th 1953.

IV. Films

1. Are Western films shown in the German Democratic Republic?

Many films from West Germany and other countries have been shown in recent months in the German Democratic Republic. The West German films shown included the following: "Mädchen hinter Gittern", "Die Zeit mit Dir", "Tiger Akbar", "Das doppelte Lottchen", "Lied der Wildbahn", "Die Perlenkette", "Nanga Parbat", "Haus des Lebens", "So lange Du da bist", "Vogelhändler", "Herz der Welt", "Vergiss die Liebe nicht", "Träumender Mund", "Fussballweltmeisterschaft 1954", "Salto mortale", "Eine Frau von heute", "Moselfahrt aus Liebeskummer", "Ich und Du", "Keine Angst vor großen Tieren".

Films from Western countries shown in the German Democratic Republic included the following:

French films

"Sans laisser d'adresse", "Pas de vacances pour le bon Dieu", "La P . . . respectueuse", "Clochemerle", "La Chartreuse de Parme", "La nuit est mon royaume", "Fanfan le Tulipe", "Les vacances de M. Hulot", "Le Boulanger de Valorgue", "Ruy Blas" "Maitre après Dieu", "Prélude à la gloire" (French-Italian film).

Italian films

"Bicycle Thieves", "Due solde di speranza", "Vulcano", "Roma ora 11".

Danish films

"De pokkers ungar".

Anglo-American films

"Moulin Rouge".

Swedish films

"She only danced one summer", "Young love".

There are difficulties in getting films from West Germany since the West German Authorities have placed many obstacles in the way of a free exchange of films.

The West German Authorities do not allow films produced by DEFA, the film company of the German Democratic Republic, to be imported into West Germany.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic has repeatedly requested full freedom for the distribution of films of a humanist character throughout Germany and is ready to hold discussions on this subject.

What sort of films are not shown in the German Democratic Republic?

The types of films which are not shown include those which offend against moral principles such as American crime and gangster films, which incite to murder and crime. In addition, films which propagate racial hatred and militarism and which show war as unavoidable are not shown.

V. Literature and publishing

1. Are German classics published in the German Democratic Republic?

The books of German classical authors are published on a larger scale than in West Germany. Care for the cultural heritage is one of the main tasks of the publishing houses.

Between the beginning of 1952 and September 1954 publishers in the German Democratic Republic issued 109 single works and collected editions in a total print of over 3.7 million volumes. More than 1.45 million copies of Goethe's works were produced in this period.

It is worthy of note that these large editions are sold out soon after they appear. The reason for this is not only the big demand for such books but also the low prices made possible by the big editions published. A six-volume edition of Goethe published by the Aufbau Publishing House in 1952/53 in an edition of 50,000 costs only 28.50 marks. The three-volume edition of Goethe produced by the Bibliographical Institute costs 18 marks (84,000 copies) and the Lessing edition published by the same publishers costs 22 marks (20,000 copies). One-volume cheap editions of classical authors are particularly popular. A one-volume Goethe has sold 120,000 copies and a one-volume Lessing 55,000 copies at a price of 6.50 marks per volume.

The works of modern German writers are also produced and sold in very big editions. In the short period since the licence was obtained for the publication of the works of Thomas Mann far more copies have been sold in the German Democratic Republic than in West Germany since the end of the war.

Many leading German writers, such as the three holders of the Stalin Peace Prize, Anna Seghers, Bertolt Brecht and Johannes R. Becher, and other noted writers such as Willi Bredel, Arnold Zweig, Stephan Hermlin, Kuba and others live in the German Democratic Republic, and their works appear in editions running into the millions. The West German Government attempts to prevent the circulation of these works in West Germany.

Millions of copies of the works of Heinrich Mann, Arnold Zweig and other great modern German writers have also been sold. Big editions have also been produced of the works of Hermann Hesse, Leonhard Frank, Lion Feuchtwanger, Ricarda Huch, Rainer Maria Rilke, Christian Morgenstern and of course also older writers such as Fontane, Raabe and Storm. These large editions sell out very quickly.

The names of some leading West German authors are not to be found in the publishers' lists in the German Democratic Republic but this is generally due to the fact that it has been impossible to obtain permission from the West German publishers to issue these books in the German Democratic Republic.

2. What about translations from foreign languages?

Books are translated from all foreign languages. A large number of Russian and Soviet books are translated in accordance with their importance and literary qualities, but they form only a part of the translations which range from Homer through Thackeray, Dickens and Fielding to modern writers. Here are figures showing the translations issued in the last two and a half years of French classical works:

Balzac . . .	18 volumes totalling 307,000 copies
Victor Hugo	7 volumes totalling 140,000 copies
Stendhal . .	8 volumes totalling 180,000 copies
Flaubert . .	3 volumes totalling 120,000 copies
Zola . . .	9 volumes totalling 145,000 copies
Daudet . .	4 volumes totalling 50,000 copies

The situation is similar with regard to the literature of other countries. Here too restrictions are often imposed by the fact that it is sometimes difficult to obtain permission to publish these works, but with good will on both sides these obstacles can often be overcome.

3. What types of books are not published?

As in other countries those books are not published which find no publisher. In the German Democratic Republic, however, this includes not only books of no literary value but also those books which offend the rules of human morals and the interests of our people. In West Germany it is to-day financially difficult to publish some of the works of Goethe or Heinrich Mann, but in the German Democratic Republic it is impossible to publish the "memoirs" of war criminals. No publisher could be found in the German Democratic Republic to issue the books of Hitler-supporters like Halder, Kesselring and Schacht or the books of old nazi authors like Dwinger or Hans Grimm. Not only the publishers reject these books. They are also rejected by the majority of the population, who do not want anti-humanist "literature", which poisons the minds of the German people and damages the reputation of Germany in the world.

4. What about gangster books and pornographic literature?

Books of this type are a serious problem in West Germany, but in the German Democratic Republic they are simply not published. Publishers are not ready to issue books of this category, just as they reject books by war criminals and war propagandists.

5. Is there a book censorship?

No. The Constitution lays down that there should be no form of censorship. The state, however, naturally sees to it that no books should appear which offend against the principles of the Constitution; that is to say books propagating war or racial and national hatred. This is the natural pre-condition for real liberty of creative writing. For this purpose, however, no censorship is necessary; the publishers themselves see that the Constitution is not broken.

Enemies of the German Democratic Republic allege that the "Office for Literature and Publishing" is a form of censorship. In actual fact, however, this office has the task of coordinating the work of the publishing houses, supporting them and seeing that they utilise all the opportunities given them by the state for extending their work. The success of this activity can be clearly seen. In West Germany dozens of publishers sometimes issue editions of one and the same work and then find that they cannot sell them. Such a situation is impossible in the German Democratic Republic. There are many different publishing houses in the German Democratic Republic but none of them are threatened by financial ruin as so many publishers in West Germany.

The average book list of each publishing house is ten times as long as the book list of a West German publisher, and the average size of editions issued by each publishing house is 25 or 30 times as great as in West Germany. (The figures for West German include the big editions of cheap crime stories which have no equivalent in the German Democratic Republic.)

6. What is the size of book production in the German Democratic Republic?

Publishers in the German Democratic Republic produced in 1952 6261 titles in editions totalling 112,000,000 copies and in 1953 they issued 8235 titles in a total of 106,000,000 copies. This means that the publishers in the German Democratic Republic produce yearly 5.6 books per head of the population (in West Germany the figure is 2.6 books per head) and in the German Democratic Republic these books are not only produced but also sold.

7. Who may write a book?

Everybody who has time, interest and talent may write a book. Young and talented authors receive great help in their work. They may write what they want to. Whether they find

a publishers depends, as everywhere else, upon whether their books are interesting and can be sold.

8. What does an author earn in the German Democratic Republic?

Authors are in a better position in the German Democratic Republic to-day than they ever were before. Here is an example:

The writer Wolfgang Joho wrote a novel called "Der Weg aus der Einsamkeit" ("The road from loneliness"). This novel appeared in two editions, each of 10,000 copies, at a price of 8.10 marks. The author in the German Democratic Republic receives per copy between 10 and 15 per cent of the sales price. In this case Wolfgang Joho received 12 per cent, that is to say 97.2 Pfennigs per copy sold. The first edition was sold out within four weeks. The sale of both editions brought the writer a gross income of 19,440 marks. In addition, this author, like other authors, continued to receive income from his former works. This means that an author in the German Democratic Republic often has an income equal to the highest salaries paid by the State, by industry and to scientists, and in some cases authors earn considerably more.

9. What taxes do authors and other artists pay?

Fourteen per cent tax is charged on authors' income. This tax is subtracted at source by the publisher or whoever gave the commission and automatically transferred to the Tax Authorities. This means that the author and other artists have no tax declaration to fill out.

In the example given above the author Wolfgang Joho had a gross income of 19,440 marks from which he received 16,718,40 marks net.

10. If a book receives critical reviews, is it withdrawn from circulation?

Naturally not. In the German Democratic Republic all parties concerned, the authors, the publishers and the press are interested in developing literary criticism and in seeing to it that every work of importance is reviewed and criticized properly. This criticism is not confined to the press and radio; it also takes the form of readers' meetings and discussions. If a work is not well received then the natural effect is that this book is not read and bought to the degree that the publisher perhaps hoped.

11. What about children's books?

A quantity and variety of books for children and young people is produced in the German Democratic Republic which awakens the admiration of those West German publishers who take their profession seriously and feel a sense of cultural responsibility.

The publishers' lists of youth literature in the German Democratic Republic include the titles of the best youth books from all parts of the world. Despite this, these lists are not yet extensive enough in view of the importance attached to youth work here. As a result, the publishers, the youth organisations and the State constantly endeavour to increase the number of youth books. Large sums are devoted to this purpose. A government-supported competition for the development of new, humanist youth books sets aside 100,000 marks yearly as bonuses for the best new works of youth literature. These bonuses are paid to the author in addition to the usual income from the publishers and this means a great deal, since the usual minimum edition amounts to 20,000 copies and these copies are generally sold immediately.

12. Are there detective stories and so on?

Detective stories and adventure books are published too. Here are the titles of some recent books in this category: "The Golden 13", "South Western Garage", "The Secret of Long Life" and "Murder in the Grunewald". In these books, however gangsters are not the heroes and there are no scenes of great brutality.

13. Are there private publishers and booksellers in the German Democratic Republic?

The majority of publishing houses and booksellers are in private hands. They include such well known old firms as the Kiepenheuer-Verlag, Weimar; the Greifen-Verlag, Rudolstadt; and the Paul-List-Verlag, Leipzig.

A number of publishing houses, both private and nationally owned, have failed in the past few years, but they were those firms which did not come up to the standard demanded of them by the public.

This development has meant that the well-run publishing houses and booksellers have been able to develop properly, free of all forms of dumping and competition from low quality wares.

Sport in the German Democratic Republic

1. What support is given to sport in the German Democratic Republic?

Sport is regarded in the German Democratic Republic as something which should help to produce healthy, strong and all-round men and women who love their homeland and their people who have courage and energy to help in the work of construction and who are ready, if necessary, to defend their homeland. For the first time in Germany sport has become something available to all young people. In this respect it is very important that sports clubs are run on the basis of the factory or the office. This has provided the foundation for a really broad sports movement.

To-day 1.3 million young men and women take an active part in sports and 86 per cent of them are organised in some 6500 factory sports clubs.

The state and the trade unions devoted 30 million marks in 1953 to the work of the factory sports clubs.

The factory sports clubs are organised in sixteen sports associations according to the branch of production. All working people can take part free in organised sports training.

The factory sports clubs are financed from the directors' funds of the nationally owned factories, from factory trade union funds and the help of grants from the trade unions and the Government. The Leuna sports club, for instance, received grants totalling 140,000 marks in 1954 and the "Steel" sports club at the Hennigsdorf works received 108,000 marks. In addition the factory sports clubs receive the total subscriptions paid by their members and any income from attendance at their matches etc.

Sports activity is growing in the country districts too. The "Tractor" sports association, which is active in the country side, has to-day more than 200,000 members.

More than 13,000 sports facilities such as stadiums, football grounds, swimming baths and gymnasiums, together with all apparatus, can be used free by sportsmen and women. There are no very expensive private sports installations in the German Democratic Republic.

1031 new sports facilities were provided by town and district councils in 1954.

A total of 49.8 million marks were devoted by the State budget in 1954 for sport work and the support of existing sports facilities.

In addition, in 1954 17,537,300 marks were provided by the Government for 240 new buildings and for the extension of existing sports facilities. This figure does not include the 20 million marks earmarked by the nationally owned "Sports Pools" for the construction and extension of sports facilities. The sums earmarked by the Government amount to 38 marks per head for each sportsman. In West Germany only 600,000 marks are used for this purpose, that is to say only 20 pfennigs per sportsman.

A large number of training camps have been established which give all sportsmen the chance of receiving qualified training in their sports, so that they can prepare for competitions. In Leipzig there is the German High School for Physical Culture and Sport, where the students go through a three-year course of sport study and training, which prepares them for the profession of sports instructor. At present, this high school is giving instruction to about 500 students, a big increase from 1953 when the students numbered 379. In addition, this high school gives postal instruction, which is preparing 413 part-time students on a five-year-course for their diploma as sports instructor.

Sports instructors for the factory sport groups are trained at special schools maintained by the sports associations. There is also a special central school for this purpose.

2. What about amateur sports?

The sportsmen and women in the German Democratic Republic take part in their sports according to the amateur regulations laid down by the various international sports federations and the International Olympic Committee. There is no professional sport in the German Democratic Republic and no "purchase" of sportsmen such as takes place in West Germany and other Western countries.

Every sportsman receives from his factory help in his training. Special achievements are distinguished by the award of titles, such as the title "Master of Sport". Up to the present 137 sportsmen and women have received "Master of Sport" and 4 have received the title "Honoured Master of Sport".

3. Why is one opposed in the German Democratic Republic to the idea of "unpolitical sport"?

The sportsmen in the German Democratic Republic have realised that there was a political background to the last world war, which led to such a great loss of young lives and that there is a political background to the partitioning of Germany and the limitation of all-German sport. They know that sport should serve to maintain health and life and not to lead to death on the field of battle. That is why the sportsmen, too, work wholeheartedly for peace why they discuss political problems and contribute to their solution.

This new attitude has received recognition in the grant of the sports medal "Ready for Work and to Defend Peace". In order to receive this medal sportsmen must not only fulfill various sports requirements, but must also show a knowledge of the answers to some important political questions dealing with the fight for peace and the unity of Germany.

The sports conditions for winning this medal are so adjusted that every citizen of the German Democratic Republic, irrespective of age, sex and physique is able to win the medal, category I, after undergoing some training. Categories II and III are awarded after meeting higher requirements.

Up to autumn 1954 a total of 134,128 sportsmen in the German Democratic Republic had won the right to wear the medal "Ready for Work and to Defend Peace".

4. Must young people in the German Democratic Republic learn to shoot?

No. In the German Democratic Republic there is a "Society for Sport and Technology", composed of young people and adults of both sexes. The aim of the society is to introduce its members to modern technology, to educate them in a patriotic and democratic spirit, and to make them ready to defend their homeland, if this should be necessary. The society includes units for motor sport, gliding, water sport, shooting and cross country sport.

The society is organised on a completely voluntary basis. Nobody is forced in any way to join the society and there are naturally no economic or political disadvantages for non-members.

5. Are there football pools in the German Democratic Republic?

Yes. On December 12th 1953 the Cabinet decided to establish a nationally owned football pool. The profits from this pool

do not enrich a private person, but are devoted to encouraging and aiding sport.

Here is the way in which the money received by the football pools is distributed in the German Democratic Republic and in West Germany:

German Democratic Republic West Germany

55 per cent to the pools participant	50 per cent to the pools participant
25 per cent for sport	15 per cent for sport
10 per cent taxes	$16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent taxes
$7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent commission for collecting offices	$8\frac{2}{3}$ per cent commission for the collecting offices
$1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent administrative costs	$7\frac{2}{3}$ per cent administrative costs
1 per cent reserve	2 per cent net profits for the pools organisers

In 1954 about 20 million marks were devoted to sport from the pools funds in the German Democratic Republic.

The political forces in the German Democratic Republic

1. Why is the Socialist Unity Party of Germany the leading party in the German Democratic Republic?

The Socialist Unity Party is the leading party in public life and members of this party occupy leading positions in the State, in economy and in the cultural field. The leading members of the Politbureau of the Socialist Unity Party, such as Wilhelm Pieck, Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht occupy leading posts in the Government (President, Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister).

The Socialist Unity Party is the party of the working class in the German Democratic Republic.

The working class is the most progressive and numerically the largest class, and together with all working sections — particularly with the working peasants and intelligentsia — interested without the slightest reservation in a democratic development in peace. The real desire for peace of the working people in all countries is based not only upon their personal interest, but above all in their class interests.

That is why the working class should take the leading place in social life; it does this through the Socialist Unity Party, the party of the working class. The Socialist Unity Party is by far the largest party numerically in the German Democratic Republic.

On this basis, a really democratic basis, the Socialist Unity Party plays the leading role, and this principle is recognised by the other parties and the mass organisations.

2. Is the Social Democratic Party banned in the German Democratic Republic?

The Social Democratic Party has never been banned in the German Democratic Republic.

In spring 1946, in what was then the Soviet Occupation Zone, the two parties of the German working class, the Communist Party of Germany led by Wilhelm Pieck and the Social Democratic Party led by Otto Grotewohl joined together to form the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on the basis of their joint adherence to the scientific teachings of Karl Marx. The coalition of these two parties took place in this manner: at separate

party congresses of the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party the delegates, democratically elected by the members of the two parties, agreed to the fusion. At the Unification Party Congress, which followed immediately afterwards, the delegates then gave their approval to the basic principles and aims which had been worked out jointly, and to the Statute of the newly created Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

Under the influence of the Western Occupation forces, a portion of the Social Democratic Party in Berlin rejected unification. As a result of this, the Social Democratic Party still exists in all four sectors of Berlin in addition to the Socialist Unity Party.

3. Is there only one party in the German Democratic Republic?

No. Apart from the Socialist Unity Party, which has already been mentioned, there are the following four democratic parties: the Christian Democratic Union, the Liberal Democratic Party, the National Democratic Party, and the Democratic Peasant Party. The Democratic Peasant Party, is, as its name implies, a party of peasants, while the other three parties are mainly middle class parties.

All these parties play their part in government and in economic and cultural life through their representatives in the People's Chamber, the Government and in local Government and through their active participation in working out laws and ordinances, particularly those which affect the section of the population they represent.

The parties in the German Democratic Republic work very well together owing to their common interest in the fight against militarism, fascism and war and for unity, democracy and well being.

Since there are no trusts, big landowners and private financiers in the German Democratic Republic there is also no party representing the interests of such groups.

4. What mass organisations are there in the German Democratic Republic?

The following mass organisations represent the interests of special sections of the population and have their own fractions in the People's Chamber. With the political parties they form the "Block of Democratic Parties and Mass Organisations":

The Free German Trade Union Federation with about 5.7 million members; the Peasants Mutual Aid Association; the Free German Youth; the Democratic Women's League; the Culture League for the Democratic Renewal of Germany; and the Association of German Consumer Cooperatives.

Other mass organisations in the German Democratic Republic include the German-Soviet Friendship Society; the German Red Cross; the People's Solidarity; the Artists Association; the Writers Association; the Journalists Association and others.

5. Must everybody join some organisation?

Membership in all parties and mass organisations is entirely voluntary.

6. What is the "National Front of Democratic Germany"?

The National Front of Democratic Germany is not an organisation in the strict sense of the word but a broad patriotic mass movement, which includes not only members of the democratic parties and organisations but also millions of other patriots, who wish to contribute to the campaign for the unity of Germany on a really democratic basis.

The main points of the programme of the National Front of Democratic Germany are:

The creation of a united, democratic, peace-loving and independent Germany; the struggle against the integration of West Germany in the imperialist and aggressive war pacts and against remilitarisation and refascisation in West Germany; the fight against all propaganda for war and national and racial hatred in Germany; the struggle for the development of the peace economy and East-West trade and against the exploitation of the West German workers by the Anglo-American imperialists.

The programme emphasises that the German Democratic Republic and its Government are the main basis for all German patriots in their struggle and that it is thus a patriotic duty to contribute to the political, economic and cultural stabilisation of the Republic.

The programme states that success in the fight waged by the National Front of Democratic Germany can only be obtained through strong bonds of friendship with the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies.

Committees of the National Front are active in the counties, districts, villages and residential areas. More and more

citizens of the German Democratic Republik regard it as their duty to act as patriots and struggle for the unity of Germany and the strengthening of peace in Europe. The citizens come together in house committees of the National Front in order to work with their neighbours for these great aims.

The tasks done by these committees on the various levels include the promotion of understanding between Germans in East and West by means of the development of correspondence with West German citizens; through friendly discussions with visitors from West Germany; through propaganda amongst the population on the manoeuvres of the enemies of German unity and peace; through the encouragement of the closest contact between the population and the workers' and peasants' state; through organising the population to support all measures of peaceful construction in their area, such as the voluntary work shifts done as part of the national reconstruction work.

The foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic

1. What are the principles of foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic?

The basis of the foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic is the struggle for the maintenance of peace, the restoration of German unity on a democratic and peaceful basis and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany.

The German Democratic Republic encourages the development of trade and neighbourly relations with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. All treaties and agreements are concluded on the basis of equality and strictly observed.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic recognises the general principles of international law defined in the Constitution, and regards these principles as binding upon all citizens of the German Democratic Republic.

The German Democratic Republic supports in particular friendship with the Soviet Union and the Peoples' Democracies in Europe and in Asia.

The principles of the Potsdam Agreement laying down the destruction of fascism and militarism, the liquidation of the trusts and the economic and political unity of Germany form a further basis of the foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic.

2. Why does the Government of the German Democratic Republic stand so strongly for friendship with the Soviet Union?

Because the basic foreign political interests of the Soviet Union coincide with the national interests of the German people. Here are a few examples:

1. In the years 1944/45 leading politicians of the Western Powers demanded the partitioning and the agrarianisation of Germany but J. V. Stalin, speaking in the name of the Soviet Government, had insisted that Germany should continue to be a united state and that it should be granted full sovereignty. In the Potsdam Agreement of 1945 this principle of Soviet policy with regard to Germany was established as a principle of international law.

2. On the basis of the Potsdam Agreement the Soviet Government supported the German democratic forces in the East of Germany in the task of breaking the power of the reactionary monopoly capitalists and junkers, the main supporters of militarism and fascism. The junker estates passed into the hands of the peasants, and basic and key industries together with the banks passed into the hands of the entire people. The Western Powers on the other hand have systematically broken the Potsdam Agreement and helped to restore the old conditions of imperialist Germany in West Germany.

3. In March/April 1947, the Soviet Government demanded the establishment of an all-German democratic Government. As a first step it was proposed to establish central administrative organs for the main fields of administration in Berlin. The Western Powers rejected this proposal.

4. In December 1947 the Soviet Government proposed the preparation of a peace treaty with Germany. The Western Powers rejected the proposal.

5. After the Western Powers had split Germany, first through the unilateral currency reform and then through the establishment of a separatist West German Government, the population of East Germany created the German Democratic Republic as a bulwark in the struggle for national unity. The Soviet Government immediately recognised the German Democratic Republic and handed over to the first Provisional Government of the German Democratic Republic the administrative functions hitherto undertaken by the Soviet Military Administration. The Soviet Military Administration was converted into the Soviet Control Commission, to supervise the carrying out of the liabilities under the Potsdam Agreement. When the German Democratic Republic was founded, J. V. Stalin pointed out that this was a turning point in the history of Europe and that the existence of peace-loving, democratic Germany side by side with the peace-loving Soviet Union would exclude the possibility of new wars in Europe.

6. On March 10th 1952 the Soviet Government submitted to the three Western Powers the draft of the basis for a peace treaty with Germany. This draft had the following points:

- a. Restoration of Germany as a united state.
- b. Withdrawal of all occupation forces at the latest one year after a peace treaty comes into force and simultaneous liquidation of all foreign military bases on German territory.
- c. Guarantee of democratic rights for all persons under the control of German law.

- d. Free activity for all democratic parties and mass organisations.
- e. Prohibition of all organisations inimical to democracy and the cause of peace.
- f. Equal civil and political rights for all former members of the German army in so far as they are not serving sentences for crimes they have committed.
- g. Prohibition of all alliances or military pacts against any state which participated with its armed forces in the war against Germany.
- h. Limitation of German territory by the frontiers laid down in the Potsdam Agreement.
- i. No limitations on the development of German peace economy and no limitation of trade with other countries.
- k. The right to establish national armed forces for the land, air and sea to the degree necessary for the defence of the country.
- l. The right to an arms industry to the degree necessary to equip the necessary armed forces.
- m. Support by the Four Great Powers for German membership in the United Nations.

All points of this draft treaty accord with the national interests of the German people and their national honour.

The Western Powers have so far refused even to comment upon this draft Peace Treaty. Instead of this they are trying to impose upon West Germany a lasting partitioning and a 50-year term of occupation and far-reaching limitation of state sovereignty and bourgeois democratic liberties in West Germany.

7. In a whole series of Notes and statements by leading Soviet statesmen the Soviet Union has proposed the ways and means by which the German people should come together to form a united state and by which Germany should take the place due to it in the community of peace-loving nations. In late summer and autumn 1953, the Soviet Government declared in various Notes that the solution of the following main questions with regard to Germany must not be postponed:

- a. the summoning of a peace conference to deal with the question of a peace treaty with Germany;
- b. the establishment of a provisional all-German Government and the holding of free all-German elections;
- c. the easing of the financial and economic obligations of Germany resulting from the war.

At the Berlin Four Power Conference in January 1954, V. M. Molotov, Foreign Minister of the USSR, made further important proposals for the solution of the German question. These proposals included the holding of a plebiscite in the whole of Germany on the question "EDC treaty or peace treaty"; measures to ease and extend economic and cultural relations between West and East Germany; and an agreement on the strength and armament of the police in West and East Germany.

On October 23rd 1954 the Soviet Union proposed to the Western Powers the holding in November 1954 of a Conference of Foreign Ministers to negotiate the re-unification of Germany on a peaceful basis. This proposal, too, accords fully with the national interests of the German people. In this Note, the Government of the Soviet Union proposed negotiations on all-German free elections, the withdrawal without delay of the occupation troops, and the summoning of an all-European Conference to discuss the question of the creation of a system of collective security in Europe.

On November 29th there opened in Moscow the "Conference of European Nations to Guarantee Peace and Security in Europe". The Soviet Union, all European People's Democracies, the German Democratic Republic and an observer from the Chinese People's Republic participated in this conference, which considered the situation which had arisen in Europe in connection with the decisions of the London and Paris Conferences of various European states.

On December 2nd 1954 the Moscow Conference published a declaration stating that the realisation of the Paris Agreements would lead to a serious deterioration of the international situation, since West Germany would become a dangerous breeding ground for a new war. For the solution of the German problem it would be necessary to reject remilitarisation and reach agreement on free all-German elections in 1955.

The final communique of the Moscow Conference stressed that the conference, which had been held in a friendly atmosphere, had shown full unanimity on the measures which would have to be taken to guarantee peace in Europe in case the Paris Agreements were ratified.

The principles laid down in the declaration of the Moscow Conference are in full accord with the peace policy of the German Democratic Republic.

These details show that any responsible German government has the powerful support of the Soviet Government in protecting national German interests.

3. Why does the Soviet Union support German national interests?

The explanation of Soviet support for German national interests is very simple.

First of all there is no private monopoly of industry and trade in the Soviet Union, which could have an interest in the conquest of sources of raw materials or of markets for its goods and thus have interests in the subjugation of other nations. There is no one in the Soviet Union who could make a profit from wars of conquest or a "diplomacy of strength" directed against other states. For this reason the Soviet Union needs neither military bases nor mercenary armies in foreign states.

Secondly the Soviet Union is a socialist state of working people. In the whole world the working people are interested in peace and not in war and for this reason the policy of the Soviet Union is a policy of peace and of opposition to every militarist war policy.

Working people in the whole world are only interested in the peaceful and undisturbed development of their homeland to prosperity and happiness; the policy of the Soviet Union is thus a policy of support for every struggle for national independence and of opposition to all forms of national and racial oppression.

The Soviet Government, with its policy of respect for the sovereignty of nations has given the German people in the course of its existence many proofs of its friendship and help. In 1922, for instance, the treaty of Rapallo freed the young German Republic from the throttling embrace of the imperialist victor states. In all situations the Soviet Union has respected the just national claims also of the German people. For this reason the foreign policy of the Soviet Union coincides with the national wishes of all peoples, including the German people.

4. How has question of payments for reparations and occupation costs made by the German Democratic Republic to the Soviet Union been solved?

From 20th to 22nd August 1953 negotiations took place in Moscow between the Soviet Government and a government delegation from the German Democratic Republic. These negotiations produced the following agreements:

- a. From January 1st 1954 all forms of reparations to the Soviet Union were completely ended. In May 1950 the So-

viet Union had already considerably reduced the reparation obligations of the German Democratic Republic, and the new agreement cancelled the sum of 2537 million dollars in reparations still due from the German Democratic Republic. (West Germany is still paying 3,450 million marks in reparations to Israel and 117 million marks reparations to Holland.)

- b. On January 1st 1954 the Soviet Union transferred all Soviet industrial undertakings in the territory of the German Democratic Republic without payment to the German Democratic Republic. At the same time the Soviet Government cancelled the debt of 430 million marks owed by the German Democratic Republic in connection with the 66 industrial undertakings handed over in 1952. (For further details see Question 7.)
- c. The Soviet Government reduced occupation costs so that they should not exceed 5 per cent of the annual budget of the German Democratic Republic and that they should not in any case exceed the occupation costs paid in 1949. This means that occupation costs paid in 1954 amounted to 1600 million marks. In West Germany occupation costs in 1954 amounted to 9600 million marks, or 34.5 per cent of the state budget.
- d. The Soviet Government cancelled the payment of debts arising from occupation costs in foreign currency since 1945 and all post-war state debts.
(West Germany pays, as a result of the London Debts Conference, the sum of 222 million marks annually from 1953 to 1957 in post war debts and 360 million marks annually from 1958 to 1976.)

In a Note dated August 15th 1953, the Soviet Union proposed to the Western Powers that similar concessions should be made to West Germany. The Western Powers declined.

The West German Government also declined to submit a request in this sense to the Western Powers.

5. Is the German Democratic Republic a Sovereign State?

Yes. On March 25th 1954 the Government of the USSR published a declaration on the creation of the complete sovereignty of the German Democratic Republic in its internal and external affairs and on the cessation of the control activities of the High Commissioner of the USSR in Germany. As a result of this declaration the functions of the High Commissioner of the USSR in Germany are limited to questions dealing with

the guaranteeing of security and the maintenance of the necessary relations with the representatives of the Occupation Authorities of the USA, Great Britain and France in questions of an all-German character, arising from the agreements of the Four Powers on Germany. The declaration of the Soviet Government pointed out that the Occupation Statute laid down by the Western Powers for West Germany could not be reconciled with the national rights of the German people and that it is one of the main obstacles to the national reunification of Germany.

6. How are trade agreements made with the Soviet Union?

Trade agreements with the Soviet Union are concluded on a basis of full equality and mutual advantage. It is necessary in this connection to point out that in the Soviet Union there are no capitalist industrial or trade undertakings which can make a profit from taking an advantage of the other party. In August 1953 the Soviet Union extended the German Democratic Republic a credit of 485 million rubles including 135 million rubles in convertible currency at the very low interest rate of 2 per cent, per annum the credit to be repaid in two yearly instalments from 1955. The 2 per cent interest rate corresponds to the usual administrative costs of such a transaction and do not provide any profit for the party granting the credit.

The Soviet Union provides the German Democratic Republic with butter, vegetable and animal fats, meat, cheese, cotton, oil seed, rice, flax, coal, rolled products, non-ferreous metals and so on.

The German Democratic Republic supplies the Soviet Union with machinery, electrical and optical apparatus, chemical fertilizers, textiles and so on.

7. Are there "Russian" factories in the German Democratic Republic?

Since January 1st 1954 there have been no Soviet-run factories in the German Democratic Republic.

The Soviet factories, which there were formerly, had been granted to the Soviet Union as part of reparations. They were not dismantled but left in Germany and run here under Soviet control. These factories provided a pattern with regard to working conditions and social facilities.

In July 1952 sixtytwo factories were handed over to the German people and on January 1st 1954 the remaining 33 fac-

tories were handed over. These included such valuable works as the "Walter Ulbricht Leuna Works", the Espenhain Lignite Combine, The Schkopau Buna Works, the Piesteritz Nitrogen Works, the Agfa Film Factory at Wolfen, the Karl Liebknecht Works at Magdeburg, the Ernst Thälmann Works at Magdeburg, the Bleichert Factory, Leipzig, the Henry Pels Factory, Erfurt, the Sachsenwerk, Niedersiedlitz, the J. V. Stalin Electro-Apparatus Works, Berlin, the Non-Ferrous Metal Rolling Mill Hettstedt, the Thale iron foundry, the Schwarzheide Hydrogenation Works.

These works were handed over with all assets and liabilities, all patents and patent claims and all their houses of culture, rest homes and policlinics. They had a total value of 2700 million marks.

The following examples show how these factories had been developed under Soviet administration:

The J. V. Stalin Electro-Apparatus works in Berlin-Treptow was 80 per cent destroyed in 1945. The Soviet Union invested nearly 23.5 million marks since 1946 in restoring the works. To-day production is 680 per cent higher than in 1936. Nine thousand people work there producing electrical special apparatus and fully automatic factory equipment.

The Krauthelm steel foundry in Karl-Marx-Stadt (formerly Chemnitz) had 890 workers in 1946. To-day the number of people employed has risen to threethousand. The production of molten steel has risen by 450 per cent and of steel castings by 400 per cent. New installations in the factory include two new 25-ton bridgecranes, a 5-ton electro furnace and an oxygen production plant.

The former Buckau-Wolf factory in Magdeburg, to-day the Karl Liebknecht heavy engineering works, has increased labour productivity five times in the past six years. Production to-day is eighteen times higher than it was in 1946. More than 20 million marks have been invested in this factory which to-day employs 12,000 people.

The Walter Ulbricht Leuna works, Germany's biggest chemical factory, employs to-day 28,000 workers and exports its goods to 24 countries. The reconstruction of this factory cost 200 million marks. To-day the Leuna works are producing four times as much as in 1947 and the pre-war production figures have been exceeded. Since 1947 a total of 91 million marks have been spent on labour safety measures, health measures and cultural facilities for the workers.

The former Soviet ore-mining undertaking "Wismut" has been converted into a mixed German-Soviet Company on a

basis of parity and equal rights. This accords with the mutual interests of the German Democratic Republic and the USSR in the work of this company. In the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic there were a number of mixed German-Soviet companies on a basis of parity, such as Derunapht, Derutra and Deruluft.

The position in West Germany is quite different. From West German sources the following particulars, which are by no means complete, can be learned; one quarter of all West German mining companies with an annual production of 25 million tons of coal, employing 105,000 miners, are owned by foreign financiers and work for their profit. These holdings include the Harpener Bergbau-AG, which was sold to foreign financiers by the war criminal and adventurer Friedrich Flick. Foreign financiers control large parts of the iron and steel industry including such important firms as the Dortmund-Hörder-Hüttenunion, the Nordwestdeutscher Hütten- und Bergwerksverein, the Stahl- und Röhrenwerke Reichsholz, the Deutsche Edelstahlwerke, and the Rheinische Röhrenwerke. Nearly 30 per cent of West German raw steel production is controlled by foreign capital.

30 per cent of the West German car industry is owned by American undertakings, such as General Motors and Ford.

8. Why does the German Democratic Republic receive such generous help from the Soviet Union?

The best answer to this question was given by Soviet Premier G. M. Malenkov at a banquet held in Moscow in honour of the Government delegation of the German Democratic Republic, which visited the Soviet Union from 20th to 22nd August 1953. Referring to the German Democratic Republic, Prime Minister Malenkov said:

"The peace-loving peoples see in the German Democratic Republic, quite rightly, the growth of a new Germany, a Germany of peace and of work, of democracy and of progress. Just because the German Democratic Republic is the bulwark for the peace-loving forces of the whole of Germany, the Soviet Union regards it as its duty to extend all-round support and help."

9. Why does the German Democratic Republic recognise the Oder-Neisse-frontier between Germany and Poland?

This question demands a full answer. The nazi-regime is responsible for the loss of the territory East of the Oder and the Neisse because of its brutal policy of conquest, directed

particularly against the peoples of Eastern Europe and the monstrous murder of over six million Poles. The fact may not be concealed that the German people themselves did not develop the strength to halt in good time this criminal policy. The leading statesmen of all the Allied Powers participating in the Second World War recognised the need for security of the Polish people. At the Potsdam Conference the heads of the governments of the USA, Great Britain and the Soviet Union decided upon this frontier and the transfer of the German population from the territory East of the Oder-Neisse line. France later adhered to the Potsdam Agreement.

The Potsdam Agreement refers to the final determination of the frontier in a peace treaty with Germany, but this means only the exact cartographical delimitation of the frontier on the Oder and Neisse. Any other reading of the agreement is impossible, since the transfer of millions of people would not have been undertaken with the intention of transferring them back again some years later.

The former resettlers were integrated in the German Democratic Republic from the very first as fully equal citizens. (Details are given on page 114). The resettlers constitute no problem in the German Democratic Republic.

In the territory East of the Oder and Neisse, a territory which has been stolen from the native Slav population in the course of the past century, the land and the natural resources are to-day owned by the Polish people, who wish to live in peace and in friendship with all nations. The recognition of the Oder-Neisse frontier is a guarantee for peaceful and friendly relations with our Polish neighbours, who give the German Democratic Republic in the course of trade, which is to our mutual advantage, important raw materials like coal and coke and also foodstuffs. Therefore in the German Democratic Republic the Oder-Neisse frontier is known as the "frontier of peace". Citizens of the German Democratic Republic, who used to live in these territories, realise that those were lost as a result of the criminal war of aggression of German imperialism. None of these resettlers wish Germany to be converted into a bomb-blasted desert in a futile attempt to restore to the junkers and the financiers the riches which they lost in these territories.

10. Why does the German Democratic Republic regard itself as part of the camp of peace and socialism?

In full accordance with the wishes of the population the Government of the German Democratic Republic proclaims its

friendship with all peace-loving peoples of the world, including naturally the American people, the British people and particularly their French neighbours.

The German Democratic Republic maintains relations of hearty friendship with those states which support a policy of peace, disarmament, the equality of nations, and the rejection of colonial domination. The same cannot be said for the governments of the Western Powers: the United States attempts to blackmail the world with atom bombs. Britain removed the legally elected government of British Guyana, France conducted a war of oppression against Vietnam. On the other hand, the Soviet Government and the governments of the Peoples' Democracies call for the banning of the atom bomb and other weapons of annihilation and defend in the United Nations the rights of all nations whose independence is threatened.

The German Democratic Republic has friendly relations with those states which are ready to conclude trade agreements on the basis of full equality and mutual advantage. Trade agreements, although still on a limited scale, have been concluded with some capitalist states, but this policy is hindered by the United States, which wishes to prevent trade between the German Democratic Republic and the countries of Western Europe, and even internal German trade. On the other hand, the Soviet Government and the governments of the Peoples' Democracies have opened to the German Democratic Republic on the most advantageous conditions the democratic world market stretching to the Pacific Ocean, with its unlimited supply and demand.

The German Democratic Republic maintains the most friendly relations with those States which support the national struggle of the German people for unity, independence and democracy. This is obviously not the case with regard to the Western states, which wish to force Western Germany into the aggressive North Atlantic Pact System. The Soviet Government and the governments of the Peoples' Democracies in Eastern Europe and in Asia, on the other hand, give their full support to the national struggle of the German people and maintain normal diplomatic relations with the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

For these reasons the German Democratic Republic regards itself as an integral part of the camp of peace and socialism.

11. Does the German Democratic Republic have trade agreements with capitalist states?

The German Democratic Republic has, at the moment, trade relations of some size with 54 different countries. Since 1950

the volume of foreign trade between the German Democratic Republic and capitalist countries has been more than trebled. The German Democratic Republic has shown its wares at international fairs in Paris, Milan, Utrecht, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Kopenhagen, Liège, Salonika, Cairo and Helsinki. The German Democratic Republic lays down no special conditions before entering into trade relations, but is ready to trade and to reach payment agreements with all countries of the world, irrespective of different economic systems. The following conditions must exist, however: the recognition of equal rights, the guarantee of mutual advantage, the desire to fulfill the agreements, the recognition of the principle of non-intervention in internal affairs, and the recognition of the legal rights arising from these agreements.

The main articles of export for the German Democratic Republic are the products of the engineering industry.

The German Democratic Republic is in a position to deliver equipment for entire factories and to provide first class technical assistance in industrial development. The German Democratic Republic is particularly interested in opening up direct trade relations with the countries of origin of such import goods as for instance corn, meat, oil, fats, coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, tobacco, fruit, wool, cotton, skins, wood and rubber. Trade agreements covering such goods have been concluded, for instance, with Indonesia and Uruguay.

The German Democratic Republic is ready to increase its annual imports from Western European countries, particularly from countries of origin, by 250 million dollars. The Republic is interested in increasing its imports of certain products by the following figures:

Cotton by 25,000 tons

Wool by 10,000 tons

Skins and Furs by 18,000 tons

Rolling steel by hundreds of thousands of tons

Meat by 25,000 tons

Butter, Oils and Fats by 20,000 tons

Corn, particularly Fodder by hundreds of thousands of tons

Fish by 80,000 tons

Tobacco by 10,000 tons

Oranges, Lemons and Bananas by 90,000 tons

Large additional quantities of coffee, cocoa, etc. are also required.

Editorial work completed November 1954.



Contents

	Page
The State in the German Democratic Republic	9
The position of the worker in the German Democratic Republic	26
How the worker lives in the German Democratic Republic	
Wages	33
Care for the workers in the German Democratic Republic	42
Activists, Emulation Contests and Heroes of Labour . . .	57
Trade and supply in the German Democratic Republic	
I. The goods available	66
II. Prices	72
III. What is the consumption per head of the most important foodstuffs	84
How the peasants live in the German Democratic Republic	
The individual peasant	85
Production cooperatives	95
The machine and tractor stations (MTS)	101
Innovations in the villages	103
How does the middle class live in the German Democratic Republic	
Craftsmen	107
Retail trade	110
Private industry	111
What is the position of former Resettlers in the German Democratic Republic	114
The position of pensioners in the German Democratic Republic	116
Concerning women	
Women at work	118
Mother and child	121
Women in the family	124
Women and fashions	125
Women and sport	126

Youth in the German Democratic Republic	127
Youth recreation	132
Youth and the State	134
Schools in the German Democratic Republic	
I. Elementary and high schools	137
II. Universities	143
Science and art in the German Democratic Republic	
I. Science	147
II. Graphic Arts	151
III. Theatres and music	152
IV. Films	155
V. Literature and publishing	156
Sport in the German Democratic Republic	162
The political forces in the German Democratic Republic	166
The foreign policy of the German Democratic Republic . .	170

1-IN-THE-20TH-CENTURY-----<0172047A-----

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



HX 632 A1 W9 no.1673
World communism in the 20th
century.

0172047A MAIN

